WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 4, NO.10 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | FEBRUARY 1994 • FREE

"Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look that becomes a habit." Peter Ustinov

Opposition to Anti-Gay Initiatives

Fighting Back!

photo by BJW

WIP News Service

The Thurston County Coalition of Washington Citizens for Fairness (Hands Off Washington) held a press conference in Olympia on January 12, in response to the anti-gay rights initiatives filed two days before. Speakers included Meredith Savage, Co-Chair of the Coalition; Governor Mike Lowry; Lt. Governor Joel Pritchard; Jerome Johnson, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition Coordinator; Aaron Owada, Japanese American Citizens' League Olympia Chapter Vice President; Gene Canque Liddell, Director of Washington State Department of Community Development and former Lacey mayor; Insurance Commissioner Deborah Senn; Rep. Cal Anderson, D-Seattle; Sen. Margarita Prentice, D-Seattle; and Anna Schlecht from Unity in the Community-Stop Hate Crimes Now! Below are excerpts from their remarks, and statements distributed at the press conference

Mike Lowry, Governor

I would like to first thank Washington Citizens for Fairness for coming together to oppose imported discrimination being brought into the state of Washington. It is very important to our state, from many aspects, that we maintain our strong tradition of opposing discrimination in any form. It's important first because it's what the people of the state of Washington believe in—the people of the state of Washington will tolerate many things, but they will not tolerate intolerance. It's also important to us economically. We are in a good position to continue to expand all of our business coming into and out of the state, especially as the state has more jobs per capita involved in international trade than any other state. Being recognized for our broad diversity, our broad number of cultures, is very important to us.

...I want to encourage this state to stand as it always has—united against discrimination....

At a time we all need to be working together on positive things for our state—we have so many positives going—the only effect of these initiatives will be huge divisiveness within our state . . . I am very concerned . . . if there is a campaign on this initiative, if it's on the ballot, the type of thing that happened in Oregon and other places around the country where there have been physical assaults, where there's been bodily danger, is the type of thing that happens out of the heat of these misinformation campaigns. And it will be very divisive.

Meredith Savage, Washington Citizens for Fairness (Hands Off Washington)

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads in part: "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States...nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

State constitutions cannot provide less protection for citizens, nor in any other way violate the United States Constitution. Yet, as of January 10, 1994, two initiatives have been filed that seek to limit the civil rights of Washington State citizens who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans peoples.

At a time we all need to be working together on positive things for our state—we have so many positives going—the only effect of these initiatives will be huge divisiveness within our state...

The right-wing groups who have introduced these anti-gay initiatives are throwing out smoke screens by proclaiming to fight against so-called "special rights." Those are their words, NOT the words of citizens who uphold *civil rights*—and the two should not be confused:

- Keeping one's job is not a "special right;"
- Securing a home is not a "special right;"
- Having and raising children without fear of having them taken by relatives, or the State, is not a "special right;"
- Loving another person without fear of being attacked for that love is not a

(Continued back page)

Interview with Wright Enterprises

D. Maia Huang

This is a discussion with Joan Wright and Tom Quinlan.

Maia: *Please explain what Wright Enterprises is about -- who you are, the people you serve, and how?*

Tom: A for-profit corporation supporting people with disabilities in their attempt to live as normal a life as possible.

Joan: Greg, my husband, and I own the agency. We offer support services to some people with 24 hour staff coverage in their homes that can range anywhere from personal care to helping them access the community. We contract with the Division of Developmental Disabilities which is a division of the Department of Social and Health Services for the state of Washington. This is not a group home situation. The people we provide services to live in their own home where they pay rent and utilities. All we do is employ the staff. The other part of what we do are two contracts with Thurston County to provide community access to people. This can

(Continued page 3)

To make this a real community where everyone has a place and value that isn't measured in monetary terms and celebrate our differences.

Alternative Facilities for Oly's Youth

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition protests the City of Olympia's decision to remove the pool tables from the Olympia Community Center and restrict access to the Center by the youth of this community for the next six weeks.

If you agree and would like to help with finding alternative facilities for the youth, please call Sylvia at 459-3625. Donations toward temporary alternative funding of facilities and activities for the next six weeks should be made to the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.

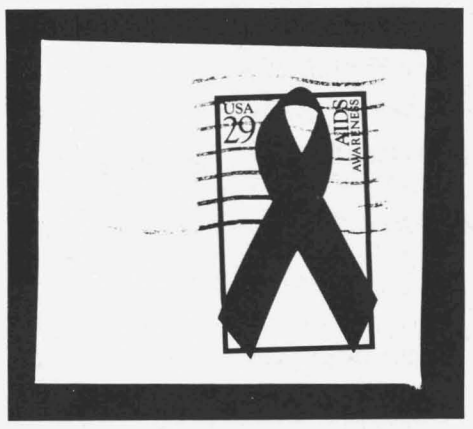
Please mail to TCRC P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Marable: Fascism In Europe — Page 4

Civil Rights In The 90s– Gay Rights Debate — Page 12

Pullout Section ~ *Homeless News and Views* — Pages 7-10

Letter



Dear Readers,

I am sad this New Year's morning. On National Public Radio (NPR), I just heard that a shanty town near San Diego was going to be bulldozed sometime after the New Year, maybe the officials would wait until Spring, maybe not.

The people living in the town of cardboard/recycled homes (in the 60s we would have called them handmade houses) are legal immigrants working for any wage they can get. Many of them work as gardeners for people nearby. They have families and a priest helped them form a neighborhood council to help solve their problems.

These people are poor, hardworking and resourceful; not as some would like to believe: poor and therefore trash to be bulldozed away.

I am sad because I am a person who believes in community answers to problems. But on the radio this morning an unnamed official said that the San Diego area already has a backlog of people waiting to get into low-cost housing and the new housing that is being built is not low-cost housing. There is no alternative housing for these people. They will probably be forced to move on, and begin building all over again. The children will have to find new friends and schoolmates; their parents, new jobs.

Which brings me back to this community and our homeless people and those soon to become homeless. Where are they to live? Middle-class people want them out of sight and out-of-mind. Homeless shelters are not homes. Low-cost housing lacks the individual homeyness of a handbuilt shack.

I think we have to face the fact that most people, and I must include myself in that group, want to pay low wages to people who fix our faucets, clean our houses, nanny our children or install our gutters. We are constantly on the look out for the guy or gal that works cheap. We buy carloads of goods from Costco or Walmart because they are cheap. Why are goods cheap? Because wages are low.

These people deserve homes too. Homes among us, not sectioned apart, separate. Some of the bolder homeless people met under the 4th Avenue bridge last week to dramatize their plight. Our local governments provide permits, codes, and design standards. Do we all have to live like a picture in Better Homes & Gardens?

Maybe we could allow some inexpensive housing which doesn't have electricity or running water to each house. I don't know the answer and bureaucracies can't provide answers when people do not want to pay taxes. But we cannot cover our eyes and not see that our country/county is becoming more like third world countries with a continuing to shrink middle class and growing numbers of people living in poverty even though working.

We are entering a new era which requires new thinking: about taxes, government priorities, and how we choose to live with the growing numbers of poor families living in our communities.

It may be the end of the Better Homes and Garden Two-Car Garage American Dream and the beginning of a new, simpler, slower, less is more, dream of justice and harmony.

Patricia Holm
January 1, 1994

Homes for People

Homeless in Olympia

Since July, me and my family have been homeless. We have been singled out by our old landlord because of mutual dislike for one another. Washington state law has what they call a No-Fault Clause which gives the landlord the power to evict a tenant for no reason, and that's what happened to us.

Since then we've lived out at Capitol Forest for 18 days, the Salvation Army for 26 days, and for the past six months we've stayed at the Bread and Roses Hospitality House. Bread and Roses is mostly a place that is set up for single women, however, I have my family here. It's pretty good here, they do everything possible to get people back on their feet into the mainstream of society, and if it weren't for this place, I would've gone crazy.

That's not my biggest problem though. I've been ready to move out for about two months now, but I'm stuck between telling the truth about what happened to us (which I tried once already—we were turned down) and telling a lie to get into a permanent place.

I think what we need is to have the No-Fault clause rewritten so it doesn't include rented rooms, apartments, or any other multi-family complex. What we also need very badly is a system to prevent families from having to go through something like this. We need a system to get families that have been put out on the streets back into their homes so that they can become a functional part of society instead of being looked down upon like a disease.

If anyone out there knows about a three bedroom house on the Westside for about $550 - 650 a month (and that accepts vouchers), please contact me at Bread and Roses (705-4764). Thank you very much.

Wyvette Stansbury

Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Jerome Johnson	Dave Campbell
Zachary D. Lyons	Evelyn Montague
Marvin Saillard	Teresa Jennings
Pat Tassoni	Chris Russo
Greg Hohnholt	Sylvia Smith
Marie Smith	Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

Next meeting:

Feb. 9th 7pm

Planning for Annual Meeting

900 East Bay Drive #A-103

Call Jerome at 357-6243 or Evelyn at 357-8463 for more information

Help Works In Progress celebrate three years in print!!!

Donate and contribute to our fourth year!!!

❑ Subscription - $25

❑ Please mail to me

❑ Donation - $15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507

Fine, locally crafted furniture...
planet-friendly design solutions...
certified organic futons... custom orders welcome...
THOUSAND CRANES FUTONS
AND FURNITURE
209 NORTH WASHINGTON • OLYMPIA, WA
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • (206) 357-8464

(Wright, continued)

range from helping them find a job to pursuing their own interests which would connect them to the community and hopefully to establish connections with people who aren't paid to be in their life.

Maia: *What kinds of issues do people with developmental disabilities face?*

Tom: Acceptance, access, bigotry, poverty...

Joan: Discrimination, loneliness, isolation, inability to communicate in ways the general public can understand, lack of control over their own lives, not being looked at as competent adults...The people we support 24 hours a day depend on others for almost every aspect of their lives.

Tom: Vulnerability is also a big one...

Maia: *What is facilitated communication? How does it work or not work?*

Joan: It's a method of communication for people who don't have functional speech that involves physical and emotional support. The person points to letters of an alphabet board, keyboard, or typewriter and they spell out their thoughts in words and sentences. Support involves assistance in isolating the index finger; stabilizing the arm to overcome tremor; backward resistance on the arm to slow the pace of pointing or to overcome impulsiveness, providing encouragement but not direction, etc...The thought is that it works because what we thought were cognitive disabilities may be a severe motor disability that is lessened by physical and emotional support. People had the thoughts inside of them all along, but not a way to get them out, and this provides a method of speaking.

Tom: It seems the relationship has to be right between the facilitator and the speaker for it to work well.

Maia: *What kinds of programs, special activities, or projects are going on at Wright?*

Tom: We have a new service to provide support which is meagerly funded and intended to provide community access to people with disabilities who don't have other services and are really isolated as well. Community access involves getting to know the individuals as to their interests, wishes, goals, desires, and trying to find places in the community where these interests can be pursued. Because of the major funding, we are looking to interns to take on the process of helping these folks find their places in the community. An intern would work 10-20 hours a week with 2-3 individuals. Part of the time would be with the individual to determine what they want to do with their life and then researching to try and match that with the community. Credit would be arranged with each school sponsoring the intern and we, as field supervisors, write evaluations of the intern's performance. Our hope is to get interns for at least six months to insure continuity of service.

Maia: *How is this kind of work rewarding?*

Tom: To see individuals who've been isolated or depressed blossom into an energetic person, anxious to go out and achieve their goals is very rewarding. I've had some significant behavior changes described by the people who live with the people I support. It's heartwarming in a lot of ways. One of the best places to learn about myself is here. I have to challenge myself and my beliefs all the time.

Joan: You can make a new friend.

Maia: *What kind of employees or intern do you look for and how do you provide adequate training and support for them?*

Joan: It's not so much about credentials as it is about your philosophy of life and how you relate to people. What you belief is about people with disabilities and their role in society. The people we support are involved in making the final decision. We just do the initial screening.

Tom: We give people facilitated communication training, policy and procedural training, overall philosophy of services, and specialized training for the individuals supported.

Joan: Our staff get to know the people they'll be supporting. A lot if it is on the job training--getting used to the people we support and finding out what they need. There are also ongoing staff meetings and trainings.

Maia: *What kinds of things would you like to see the community doing to advocate for people with developmental disabilities?*

Tom: I'd like to see people who have time to reach out and make friends with someone with disabilities. To make this a real community where everyone has a place and value that isn't measured in monetary terms and celebrate our differences.

Joan: I'd like people in our community to make a commitment to include and want all people there. I'd like people to initiate contact themselves with people with disabilities rather than waiting for the system to do it. This means challenging and breaking down all barriers--physical, communication style, acceptance, and out own fears of people who are different from us.

If you have any questions or want to get involved in the internship program, please contact:

Resource Alternatives, Inc.
Wright Enterprises, Inc., dba
1700 Cooper Pt. Rd. Ste. C4
Olympia, WA 98502
(206) 943-6257 ♥

Speaking on the State of Women in Bosnia

Fran Peavey, who went to Bosnia to meet with women's and peace groups, will speak in Olympia

United Churches, 11th and Capitol Way

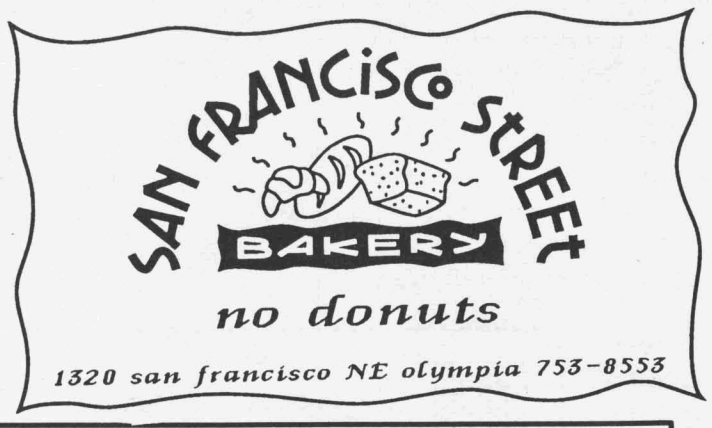
Sunday, February 6, at 7:30 PM.

The San Francisco activist arrived in Bosnia last fall to see for herself the effect of the conflict—especially on women, hundreds of whom have been systematically raped, according to human rights groups.

She met with some of the hundreds of thousands of people who have been forced out of their homes. One woman told Peavey of having once lived prosperously in Vulovar, a city of 54,000 that was burnt to the ground. Her father was brutally killed, she said, and her brother disappeared.

Another told of having lost touch with women in Belgrade with whom she worked closely for years in the fight for women's rights. (Belgrade is the former capital of Yugoslavia, but now lies in Serbia.) For a long time, she felt abandoned. Then, at a human rights conference in Vienna, she met her former colleagues. "We hugged and cried," she told Peavey, "we are still sisters. The war is a man's war. Men declare the war, they fight the war. We women have other business."

Peavey is coming to Olympia at the invitation of Helena Meyer-Knapp, a local activist and college professor who belongs to the community for Christian Celebration, the sponsor of Peavey's address at the United Churches.



Orca Books Inc.
Linda Berentsen & Cori Christiansen

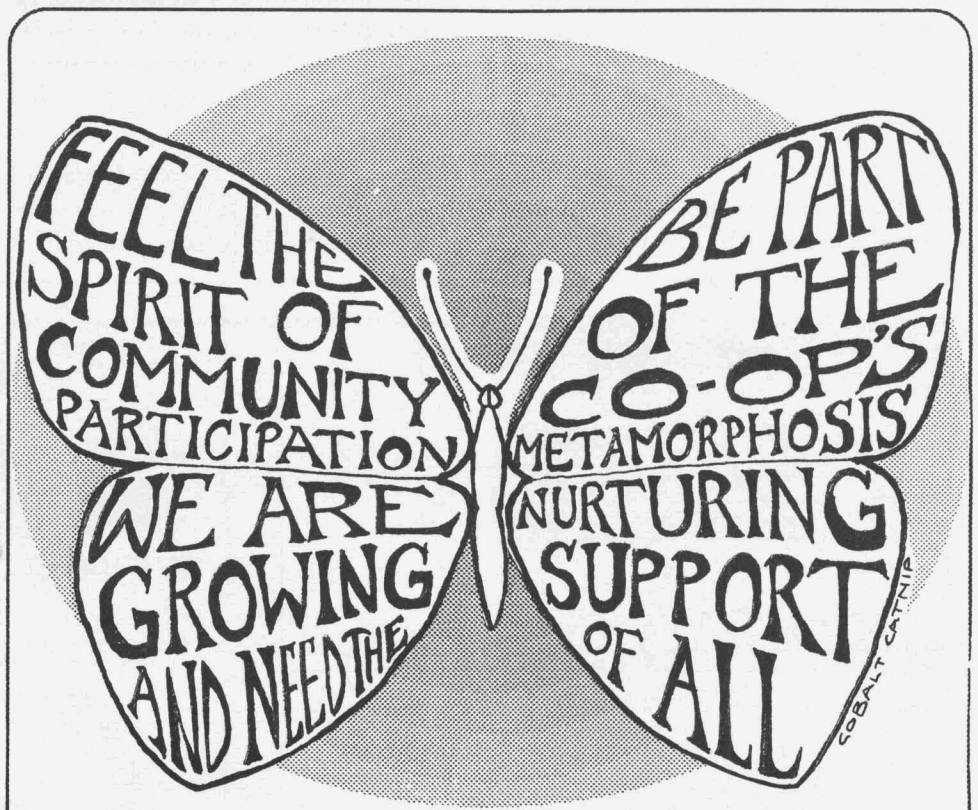
Dive into reading without getting soaked!

Buy • Sell • Trade

Quality Books • Games • Books on Tape

509 E. 4th Ave. • (206) 352-0123

Open Daily and Evenings • Downtown Olympia, WA


FEEL THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
WE ARE GROWING AND NEED THE
BE PART OF THE CO-OP'S METAMORPHOSIS
NURTURING SUPPORT OF ALL
COBALT CATNIP

Feel the beat,
Be part of the music
that is creating a
harmonious community.
Volunteer at the Co-op

Olympia Food Co-op

921 N. Rogers
Olympia, WA 98502
754-7666

Volunteers recieve a 25% discount on purchases

Along the Color Line

Fascism in Europe

Dr. Manning Marable

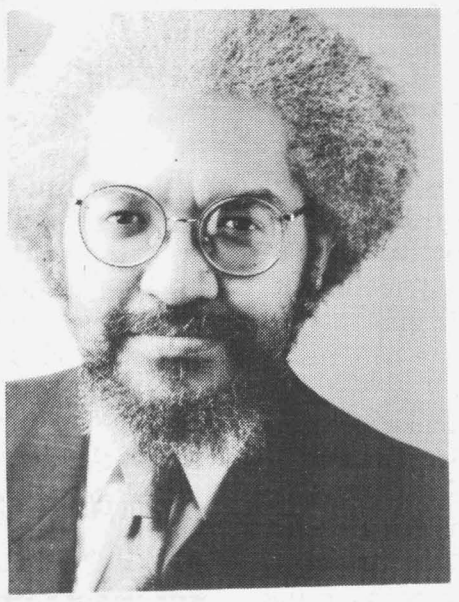
I stood on a Paris street last month, as darkening clouds rumbled above. Beneath intermittent showers, marching in crude military formation, were several hundred members of the French racist political party, the National Front. Most of the party members were wearing casual work clothes, blue jeans and worn leather jackets. The majority of demonstrators appeared to be in their twenties and thirties. All were shouting, and all were white.

I followed the motley procession as it made its way from the Boulevard Raspail, through the business district of the narrow Rue D Rennes, on the city's Left Bank. National Front members and their supporters were busy posting racist flyers on the walls of dozens of buildings and doorways. One poster attacked French participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, which were just being concluded in Geneva, Switzerland. Another flyer condemned symbols of "American imperialism" which supposedly undermined French culture. The symbols included the Statue of Liberty—which had been made in France originally and given to America as a gift—the trademark of McDonald's hamburger chain, and a gross depiction of an African American basketball player, with huge lips and grotesque eyes. The National Front's slogans were provocative: "France for the French!" "Immigrants Out of Europe!"

The demonstration blocked an intersection, trapping a small automobile. Evidentially, the driver made the mistake of showing his outrage at the fascists. National Front members surrounded the vehicle and pounded it furiously with their feet and fists. The motorist fled for safety, as his automobile was smashed. As the panic in the streets escalated, I wondered aloud, "Where are the French police?"

Saturday afternoon shoppers who had come to the busy district for Christmas shopping now huddled anxiously against the walls of the brightly decorated buildings. One elderly woman with red hair, perhaps a survivor of the German occupation of France a half century ago, was not intimidated. Stepping forward, she bitterly denounced the young thugs: "Fascists!" "Fascists!"

When the demonstrators reached a McDonald's restaurant, they began to shout in unison, pounding against the large glass windows and doors. Terrified patrons and employees fled. Then from the rear of the mob, about twenty "skinheads" covering their faces with red handkerchiefs sprinted forward. They smashed a large plate glass window in the front of the restaurant, as well as the front doors. Triumphant and cheering, the National Front members marched to the Tour Montparnasse, thrusting their rain-soaked racist banners into the dark sky. Once more, the police were nowhere to be found.



The neofascist National Front has tens of thousands of members and has garnered the support of several million French citizens. The Front appeals chiefly to the country's unemployed and working class whites, who feel that they are losing their jobs to nonwhite immigrants. By purging Arabs, Africans and others lacking French citizenship from the country, the Front declares, poor whites will advance economically.

Fascist, anti-Semitic and racist movements are growing rapidly across Europe in the post-Cold War period. In the past three years, right-wing extremists in Germany have murdered thirty nonwhites, and have burned the homes of Turkish and African workers. In Russia's recent parliamentary elections, the racist and ultranationalist party of Vladimir Zhirinovsky received significant support. In Italy, the granddaughter of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, running on a reactionary program, was only narrowly defeated in her bid for mayor of the city of Naples.

The near political outlook in Europe is more dangerous today perhaps than at any time since the defeat of Hitler's fascism fifty years ago. As the real wages of white workers fall and unemployment grows, the foundations for scapegoat politics and ethnic chauvinism increase. We must monitor closely the growth of parties like the National Front, and provide support whenever possible to progressive and anti-racist organization throughout Europe. As Paul Robeson, W.E.B. Du Bois and Malcolm X all observed, the struggle against racism must be waged internationally.

As I walked toward my hotel after the National Front's rally, I encountered one final poster, the most vicious of all. A white man was shown under violent assault, with two black hands covering his mouth from behind. The slogan beneath read simply: "Freedom of Expression for Whites!" ♥

Fascist, anti-Semitic and racist movements are growing rapidly across Europe in the post-Cold War period. In the past three years, right-wing extremists in Germany have murdered thirty nonwhites, and have burned the homes of Turkish and African workers.

IRONWOOD EVERGREENS
Telephone
(206) 786-5250

Hours
7-8 weekdays
8-8 weekends
Smithfield CAFE
OLYMPIA
Happy Hour
Monday - Saturday
5PM to 7PM
50¢ off all
espresso drinks!
212 West 4th Avenue, 786-1725

The WILD SIDE NATURE STORE
MON-SAT 10:00-5:30
SUN 12:00-4:00
Nesting Boxes
Native Plants-Wildflower Seeds
Field Guides-Nature Books
Butterfly Supplies
Gifts for Kids of any Age
507 Washington Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98501
206-754-8666

KUNDALINI ESPRESSO
Coffee Never Felt So Good

TOSSED Pizza
Tamas
120 N. PEAR OLYMPIA, WA 98506 • RESERVATIONS 943-9849

JAMIE LEE
STYLES UNLIMITED
1014 E. 4TH
OLYMPIA, WA
98501
357-6164

HARRISON & TURNER BOOK CO
404 Washington Street
Olympia WA 98501
(206) 754-2151
12 – 5pm Daily and Sat
• Counter-Culture, Beat, Anarchist Literature and Studies
• Woman's, Lesbian, Multiethnic Fiction and Non-Fiction
• Bloomsbury & Postmodern Literature and Studies
• Special Under $5.00 Bargain Section

ALWAYS SAFE & LOCK, inc.
* Locks / Safes / Doors
* Doors & Frames
* Foreign and Domestic Auto Locks
* Fire Extinquishers
* Guaranteed Keys
301 West 4th 357-8500 & 800 Sleater-Kinney 458-8500

Reflections of a G.I.

Thinking about Korea

Dave Zink

The mainstream press these days is full of "news" about North Korea's nuclear threat to the "free world". To these mass-media gurus, North Korea is a "hard-line communist state".

I guess that must make the USA a "hard-line imperialist state"?

That was sure the way it felt ten years ago when I served a one-year tour of duty in South Korea for the US Army. It was a very interesting and educational experience. It felt similar to how it must have felt to be an English troop in British India back in the grand old days of Empire. As is the case with most military duty assignments, it is only when a GI breaks out of the barracks routine that he can learn what is really going on in his surroundings. You've got to get out among the people, and treat them as equals with courtesy and respect, or you'll get nothing out of an overseas assignment. This can be difficult: not only are there language problems, but the military brass doesn't encourage overt "fraternization".

South Korea is very much an economic colony of American and multi-national corporations - a source of cheap labor. The average worker in Seoul, Pusan, and other major cities would get one day off after putting in two solid weeks of 10-hour days. That's two days off per month. Unions were dealt with harshly: a peaceful strike would be occasion enough for the government to call out the troops. I remember vividly how peaceful, unarmed workers were dealt with by troops in full battle gear, bearing shields and brandishing black billy-clubs. At the time, I was surprised that the clash I had witnessed had not made it onto the TV news. Accusations of "communist influence" in the unions were common. Still, unionized industrial workers typically got somewhat better treatment, and got each Sunday off - that was 4 days off per month. From recent conversations with Korean-Americans, I understand that these working conditions haven't changed much.

In the North, working conditions in general are similar to those of unionized workers in the South. The average work day is 8 hours, with every Sunday off. In situations involving heavy-duty labor, like in factories, workers would work "split-shifts" of 4-6 hours. All workers in the North get 2-4 weeks of vacation, and there's nice government-run "R&R" resorts. On Fridays, office and store workers work outside on various public works projects like cleaning up streets and parks. People I've talked with always comment on how "spruced up" and neat things are in the North, compared to the South.

Out in the country, people usually live and work in rural co-operatives. Lifestyles for farm families are pretty frugal and simple, but comfortable, while in the South you could see a lot of people living on "the edge". In the South, many young people move into Seoul, Pusan, and other rapidly growing cities where prospects look better. You do see a lot more modern consumer gadgets in the South - but being able to buy them is another story. In the cities of the South, you'll see a lot of folks trying to make a living out on the streets by selling all sorts of things like razor blades, fingernail clippers, batteries, and other odds and ends from makeshift stalls, or even blankets on the sidewalk.

In the North, you don't see as much hustle and hassle. Basic human needs like housing, food, education, and medical care are met as rights. In the South, people sacrifice to get their kids through school, and food and medical care are limited to what you can afford. Most can't afford very much.

For a GI, especially a single guy, South Korea was a great duty station. Economic conditions forced many Korean women into prostitution, and a lonely guy could easily find a good time with "the girls down on Texas Street". To a GI who wasn't bothered by moral questions, it was great for the ego, but not such a good situation for the Koreans. Naturally enough, people naturally want to escape these conditions, and many come to the USA as brides of GI's.

If it wasn't for the US military presence in South Korea, the peninsula would have been reunited a long time ago. Students and many others tended not to be very friendly with the American troops and it was clear they would rather have had us just go home - and to leave the Koreans to work out their problems by themselves.

North Korea is understandably concerned about its very survival. South Korea is bristling with military intimidation, and the US has many nuclear and non-nuclear weapons pointed at Pyongyang and the North. "Team Spirit" is a joint military combined exercise - a show of military strength - by US and South Korean Armies, Air Forces, Marines, and Navies. "Team Spirit" comprises simulated, but very realistic, war games including amphibious landings, tank battles, etc. A lot of badgering and intimidation has been directed against the North for decades.

When a country faces hostile neighbors across its borders, it naturally causes a defensive, withdrawing reaction. Unrelenting pressure takes its effect. It certainly does not create an environment conducive to an open, free society. If our country was truly interested in expanding - instead of expending - democracy, we would ease off this harassment. But US imperialism, as the world's last remaining superpower, is determined to root out all remaining socialistic governments. North Korea, even with its comparatively small income and meager resources, has shown how people's standards of living, health, education, the right to meaningful employment, can be lifted if a country just gets its priorities straight and puts people before profits. If mass media in the USA was not controlled by corporations, and if we were free to travel to Cuba and North Korea, Americans would hear the truth. In short, like Cuba, North Korea is an example that US imperialism cannot tolerate!

North Korea, even with its comparatively small income and meager resources, has shown how people's standards of living... can be lifted if a country just gets its priorities straight and puts people before profits.

In making demands on the North, the arrogance of the US government is just amazing. What do you suppose the Pentagon's - or the Dept. of Energy's - reaction would be if Korea demanded to inspect US nuclear facilities?

The US is using the tactics of a schoolyard bully against North Korea (and Cuba) to harass and provoke her into some defensive reaction, then use this as an excuse to clobber the country. As in the Persian Gulf War, the media and PR experts will be utilized to distort the situation and mold public opinion into accepting a military solution.

As for me, I'm starting to get together some placard-making materials. We might be needing some signs when we take to the streets to protest still another war. Oh - and this time, folks, **please** don't burn Old Glory. Our flag doesn't need to be burned. She's been abused by the money- and power-hungry to cover their crimes for too long. Old Glory needs to be publicly washed, cleaned, and reclaimed by the decent people of this country! ♥

Dave Campbell

The following figures come from Marcus Corbin of the Center for Defense Information and from Michael Allen of the Olympia Salvation Army shelter.

It costs $16 million a year, ***$44,000 a day***, for the ***USS Olympia*** submarine to exist. The LA class, fast attack submarines are still being built at an average cost of $714 million (in 1993 dollars).

It cost approximately $1 million to build the Salvation Army shelter for the homeless, which has 65 beds. It costs approximately $600 a day to run it.

This submarine, in the ten years of its existence has done absolutely nothing quantifiable--except it has produced nuclear waste that will be contaminated for centuries. However, it has the ability, in just its nuclear-tipped Tomahawk missiles, to produce 300 Hiroshimas, that is **to kill approximately 210 million people** in a few minutes time, and it's only function is to be ready to do this.

The Olympia Salvation Army shelter during the two years of its existence has provided shelter and resources to hundreds of desperate people. It has saved lives on freezing nights. It has provided immeasurable solace and comfort to hundreds of people.

There are 95 fast attack submarines. Round that off to 100 and we have the following figures of execrable government waste: $1.6 billion a year to pay for their maintenance--$4.4 million ***per day***, from our tax dollars. In 1993 dollars, we have 70 billion dollars of investment floating around the oceans, with the ability **to destroy 21 billion people** (and that's not counting the ominous Trident submarines, or the U.S. Army, Marines or Air Force weapons).

Instead of building one new submarine today you could take the money and build (at $2 million a piece) 350 shelters in this country to house 22,750 people. The $44,000 a day required to maintain the submarine could maintain eighty of those shelters, if they were run as efficiently as the Salvation Army.

"Wouldn't we, as a nation, prefer to have 'only` fifty submarines (with the ability to kill ten billion people), freeing up funds for a total solution to the homeless problem, with tens of billions of dollars left over? These submarines are the real hidden villain of government waste and the massive debt. And make no mistake about the hidden violence in these subs has come back to haunt us in the form of homelessness, poverty, broken homes, violent youth and crime-ridden, rotting cities," says Michael Harburg, weeping with outrage.

The "Political Will" Behind Ending Hunger

Kerry Holden

The magnitude of widespread hunger, homelessness, violence, discrimination, etc. are so overwhelming that a large part of humanity has bee plagued with resignation and despair about the possibility of ever having a world where humans can live peacefully and with dignity. Those who volunteer their time to work at soup kitchens, homeless shelters, or donate to various social service organizations, often wonder if their efforts are really making a difference. I believe, that yes, this does make a difference. However, it is clear to me that "political will: must also be a part of our strategy if we want to create a more permanent change. My participation with a group called RESULTS has shown me what is meant by "political will". RESULTS is an acronym for Responsibility for Ending Starvation Using Legislation, Trimtabbing and Support.

RESULTS, a grassroots lobby organization whose purpose is to "create the political will to end hunger", and at the same time break through the thought that "I don't make a difference", has inspired many ordinary citizens to cause extraordinary results. The story of RESULTS truly amazes me, and when I envision the possibilities that such grassroots participation can have on the world, it brings excitement and tears to my eyes. I would like to share a little bit about the story of RESULTS, and share how the local RESULTS group takes on the "political will to end hunger and poverty."

Recently, Sam Harris, the executive director and founder of RESULTS visited Olympia as part of his 85 city tour to speak about his new book entitled *Reclaiming Our Democracy*,in which he shares the story of RESULTS. It all started in the late 1970's, Harris, a school teacher at the time, was intrigued by the publicity around the idea of ending world hunger. After reading a National Academy of Sciences World Food and Nutrition Study which stated, "If there is the political will in this country and abroad, it should be possible to overcome the worst aspects of hunger and malnutrition within one generation," Harris wondered what was meant by "political will". He had no real sense of what it meant other than it might start with a basic awareness of who represented us in government. He decided to ask his high school students a question: the question was: "Who know the name of your member of Congress?" Over the next two years, he asked 7,000 high school students to name their member of Congress - 200 knew the answer, 6,800 didn't. At this point, a seed had been planted. Harris saw that ending hunger with "political will" meant teaching the skills of democracy and acquainting people with their government. In May of 1980, Harris started the group RESULTS.

RESULTS has since grown to more than 130 groups in nine countries (Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Ukraine and affiliates in El Salvador and Lesotho). In the United States, there are nearly 100 groups in over 40 states. What has made RESULTS so powerful is that it focuses its energy into empowering citizen leaders, into building community spokespersons. Most advocacy groups do not do their own lobbying. RESULTS volunteers are everyday citizens who generate editorials in their local newspapers, speak on local radio and television stations, coordinate press conferences, and meet with their members of Congress. For example, in 1992, RESULTS volunteers in the U.S. generated 104 editorials, 36 op-ed pieces, 107 articles and 566 letters to the editor in major newspapers and journals nationwide. In addition, volunteers hosted 65 news conferences on the Earth Summit and on the release of UNICEF's State of the World's Children 1993 report which were attended by 113 TV stations, 88 radio stations 96 newspapers.

RESULTS issues include reaching global goals such as:

1. Fulfilling the year-2000 goals agreed to at the 1990 World Summit for Children: reducing child deaths by at least 1/3; halving maternal mortality and child malnutrition, ensuring access to basic education, clean water, safe sanitation, and family planning information services.

2. Having microenterprise poverty lending be a pillar of U.S. foreign assistance. Millions of the world's poorest women are gaining access to tiny amounts of credit, starting small income-producing enterprises and climbing out of poverty.

3. Promoting organizations that involve people who are poor in solving their own problems—groups that promote transformation.

Domestically, RESULTS focuses on:

1. Full funding for Special Supplemental Food Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) by 1996 and Head Start by 1998.

2. Domestic microenterprise and other programs that empower people to end their own hunger and poverty with dignity and promoting these strategies during the welfare reform debate.

3. Ending homelessness.

One aspect that makes RESULTS such a powerful organization is its structure. There are a few staff persons in Washington DC who are largely responsible for researching and writing legislation. In addition there is a director of development and three national managers. National managers are there to support the volunteers and reaffirm them that their efforts are making a difference. Within each region east, midwest, and west), there are several regional volunteers who keep in regular communication with local group leaders.

The communication and collective action from all around the country often make people in D.C. think the RESULTS is a lot bigger than it really is. Once a month, all the RESULTS volunteers in the United States are joined together on a nationwide conference call. There is a quest speaker, usually from D.C., who educates the volunteers and takes questions from the volunteers. Staff and volunteers share the results of their activism and get training on what to do next. The feeling in the room with the speaker phone and with all those other people really gives you a sense that something is happening that could have some profound changes in the world. After the call, individual groups write letters to their members of Congress, local newspaper editor, or to key policy makers. Volunteers also practice talks and learn information so that they can become spokespersons in their communities.

A success that RESULTS recently played a role in was with their lobbying with the U.S. agency for International Development for $2 million to fund microenterprise banks. The Grameen Trust, which will receive these funds, is a non-governmental organization in Bangladesh that trains community leaders from developing countries to set up poverty lending banks, modeled after the Grameen Bank. The idea behind such a banking system is that it provides small loans, mainly to poor women who otherwise have no access to credit, thus enabling women to provide for themselves and their families. In Bangladesh, there are over 1.8 million borrowers who receive loans averaging just $100, and the payback rate is 98%. The Grameen Bank loans $30 million in small loans each month. RESULTS advocates microenterprise as a pillar of our foreign aid policy and has taken many actions including producing dozens of editorials, hundreds of letters to the editor, several Congressional briefings with Grameen Bank founder Muhammad Yunus, a Congressional sign-on letter to US/AID Administrator Brian Atwood, and a meeting organized by RESULTS between Mr. Atwood and Congressional supports of Grameen. RESULTS groups in Japan, Great Britain, Germany and Canada have similarly been lobbying their governments to fund the Grameen Trust.

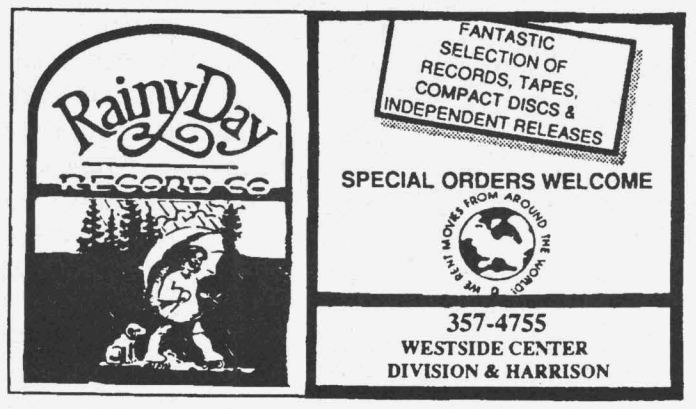
Domestically, RESULTS joined with many other groups in advocacy for two domestic children's programs, Head Start and WIC. Both programs received substantial funding increases for fiscal year 1994-$550 million for Head Start and $350 million for WIC.

In Olympia, RESULTS volunteers also take part in generating letters to the editor, arranging radio interviews, holding press Conferences and forums, as well as meeting with Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld and Senator Slade Gorton. There is a Global Group and a newly formed Domestic Group. Last Thursday, when Sam Harris was in town, nearly thirty RESULTS members and their guests joined together at the home of a local RESULTS leader. I also attended the evening and was, once again, inspired by the power that a small group of committed citizens can have. I recall the often repeated quote by RESULTS volunteers: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead. Out of that evening, several guests decided to join the local group. It is amazing that, once people see that they can make a difference, they jump at the opportunity. Harris' book *Reclaiming Our Democracy* mentioned earlier, offers a lot of insight not just on how to organize citizens around world hunger, but around any issue. David Beckman, President of Bread for the World states that "If you read Sam Harris' story, you will never again be able to feel there's nothing you can do about big problems like world hunger. This book is both an inspirational and how-to manual."

I was first introduced to RESULTS through an internship opportunity, and thanks to that, I have gained a new way of solving many of our world's worst problems. If you really think about how our government can program a missile to fly half-way around the world and land within a few feet of it's target, then surely it should be possible to prevent 35,000 child deaths per day caused by easily preventable diseases such as polio, measles, dehydration and pneumonia. Where there is the political will, there is a way.

If you would like to participate locally with RESULTS, please call Kerry Holden at 956-9636 for Domestic action or Carolyn Prouty at 206-482-4657 for Global Action. Internship Opportunities at both the local and national level are also available. ♥

It is amazing that, once people see that they can make a difference, they jump at the opportunity.



Thurston County Rainbow Coalition and Works In Progress Present

HOMELESS NEWS AND VIEWS

Volume 1, Number 3 | February 1994

Task Force Formed to meet Impending Shelter Crisis

The Homeless Services Community Task Force (HSCTF), a diverse, county-wide coalition of politicians, service providers, and concerned citizens, began meeting on Wednesday, January 5th to discuss and develop an action plan for sheltering Olympia's homeless population after the March 1st closing of the First Baptist Men's Shelter. **The HSCTF will continue meet throughout February on Friday mornings at 10:00 - 12:00 at Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1, Room 280** (free shuttle buses to the Courthouse are available). All with an interest in listening and voicing their concerns on the issue of sheltering the homeless in our community are urged to attend. A summary of the remaining February schedule is as follows:

***Week 5* , February 4th**: The public's input on the shelter options generated from the HSCTF's third and fourth meetings (*see summary below*) will be listened to and addressed by the Task Force. (IF YOU ARE HOMELESS, YOU SHOULD MAKE A CONCERNED EFFORT TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING!! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO BE AN ACTIVE PART OF THE SOLUTION—DON'T MISS IT!!)

***Week 6* , February 11th**: The HSCTF will select the most viable of the options generated from previous meetings for possible implementation. Outside facilitation (e.g. Dispute Resolution Center) may be called in to assist the selection process.

***Week 7*, February 18th**: Final meeting. The HSCTF will develop an action plan and prepare recommendations.

Summary of HSCTF's January agenda and first three meetings

At press time, the HSCTF had met on three occasions; twice at the Board of Health building on 4th Ave., January 5th and 14th, and once at Thurston County Courthouse, Building 1, Room 280 on January 21st. The Task Force is comprised of the following eleven members: Ralph Smith, Homeless Representative, Dick Nichols, District 3 County Commissioner, Bill Bush, Lacey City Council, Margaret McPhee, Olympia City Council (not present at first and third meetings, Mayor Bob Jacobs filled in), Dick Hinkle, Emergency Housing Network, Walt Jorgenson, Tumwater City Council, Pastor Sam Hochstatter, First Baptist Church, Ken Schwilk, Associated Ministries, Brad Griswold, Olympia Downtown Business Association (not present at third meeting), Cindy Cecil, United Citizens Betterment Organization of Yelm, and Mike Allen of the Salvation Army (not present at first meeting, Steve Beadle filled in). Assisting the Task Force are five staff members: Pat Libby, Executive Director Thurston County Health Department, Dean Hanks, Executive Director of United Way, Chris Lowell, Director of TC Housing Authority, John Walsh, Community Action Council and Eric Brown, Research Assistant.

***Week 1* , January 5th**: The Task Force agreed to follow a liberal consensus-based decision-making model that would direct its efforts towards achieving unanimity, while avoiding unnecessary delays. John Walsh facilitated the "interest-gathering" portion of the agenda, where everyone on the Task Force submitted what they felt was of primary importance in generating housing and/or emergency shelter options by March 1st. While each member submitted his contributions, John Walsh wrote the interest statements down for public review. Afterwards, a "homework assignment" was given, which required all of those in attendance to submit a written response to two questions during the subsequent ten days prior to the next meeting:

(1) If I am in need of emergency shelter in the Thurston County community, what should be available?

(2) If I am a homeowner/rent payer in the Thurston County community, what emergency shelter should be available?"

After these assignments were handed out, public comment was invited, and these responses were added to the already lengthy list of concerns and interests regarding homelessness in Thurston County. A quick review of the resulting comprehensive list suggested that a dichotomy of priorities was present, with a conflict between short term emergency needs for a shelter NOW and long term philosophical goals and operational guidelines emerging as a possible obstacle to creating an action plan by the end of February. The meeting adjourned at 11:40.

***Week 2* , January 14th**: The Task Force reiterated its primary objective, to "assure focus on short term emergency shelter", while granting secondary status to its complementary objective: maintaining an active dialogue on long term philosophical issues and additional services that would aid the homeless in securing permanent housing.

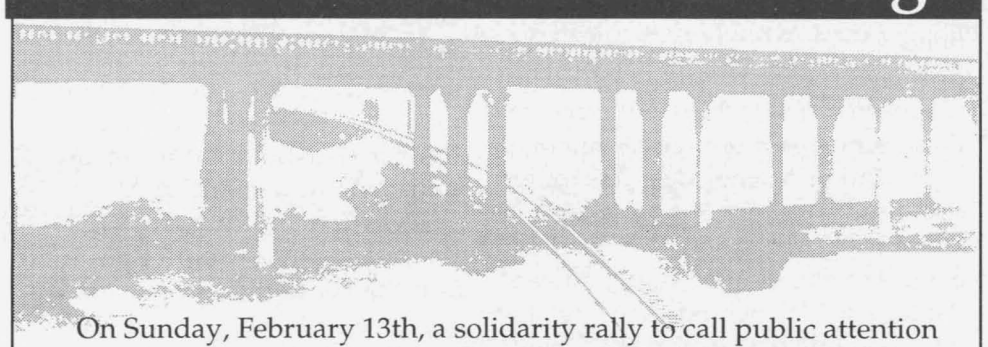
A brief review of the United Way homeless assessment census, completed in August of last year, was made to reorient everyone as to the scope and size of the needs the new shelter will be expected to meet. Pat Libby then facilitated the next part of the meeting, where a summary and breakdown of the "homework assignments" gathered during the previous ten days was discussed. The Task Force then separated into two groups with the purpose of developing a "short term realistic vision statement for community emergency shelter", utilizing the interest statements as a guideline for achieving a consensus-based decision.

***Week 3*, January 21:** The vision statement developed in Week 2 was subdivided into three primary considerations: the site for the shelter, what services it will offer, and funding.

Regarding the first, site considerations, an emphasis of the Task Force from its inception has been to maximize existing facilties. In short, this means the Salvation

(Continued next page)

Homeless Solidarity Rally to Be Held Under 4th Ave. Bridge



On Sunday, February 13th, a solidarity rally to call public attention to the impending closing of the First Baptist Men's Shelter will be held from 2:00 PM - ? under the 4th Ave. bridge. The scheduled activities at press time include a public SCHEM (Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement) meeting open to all, with Community Potluck and live music to follow. **La Onda** and **Off the Cuff** (tentative), two local, all-drumming rhythm bands, will perform from 4:00 PM on, with participation from other musicians likely to erupt spontaneously throughout the afternoon.

The rally is being sponsored by SCHEM's membership and the homeless community. Please plan to attend and lend your support to your homeless neighbors! Bring a dish (preferably something that doesn't require reheating), utensils, musical instruments, and an open heart and mind! Listen, eat, dance, and speak out against homelessness in Thurston County! (SCHEM requests that this event be kept **drug and alcohol free**.)

For further information, contact Angie at 352-9086, Adam at 705-0419, or Greg at 943-5315.

Statement of Purpose:

WiP's aim in publishing *Homeless News and Views* is threefold: (1) First and foremost, we wish to make some contribution to dispelling the narrow misconceptions about who the homeless are and how these *individuals* became homeless. We believe that this can best be accomplished by (2) granting all sectors of the homeless population a free, uncensored medium with which to tell their stories, voice their concerns, and exchange information. By doing so, (3) the homeless will hopefully become more in our community's imagination than a faceless mass of people without homes—perhaps we who *have* homes will begin to understand the importance of considering what the homeless have to offer the future of our community rather than by what they lack in the immediate present.

Homeless News and Views is seeking articles, poetry, photography, or artwork concerning homelessness. Local homeless contributors are given top priority, but anyone wishing to make relevant submissions are urged to do so. All interested parties are encouraged to contact the editor, Greg Hohnholt, at 943-5315. If you wish to be interviewed, require access to a word processor, or would like some assistance with getting your thoughts into print, please call to make arrangements to meet with Greg. Thank you!

WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507

First Baptist SHELTER LOG

by Greg

January has been a particularly stressful month for staff members. Although our numbers have stabilized between a predictable 60-75 men every night, some outbreaks of violence and unusually malicious mischief have raised questions concerning whether these incidents are in some way connected to our homeless community's response to the fast-approaching shutdown of the Shelter on March 1st. Among these incidents:

- A fight broke out between two men in mid-January in the upstairs bathroom. No one was seriously hurt, but a bathroom stall partition was severed from the wall.
- An auxiliary heater in the downstairs women's bathroom has been urinated on repeatedly on separate occasions. The perpetrator(s) have not yet been "caught in the act", and thus far, staff have been unable to take any action to curtail this behavior.

Although no one can attest with any certainty whether these incidents of violence and mischief are coincidental, or a physical manifestation of the unconscious anger that a small percentage of the men cannot control, a common feeling of frustration and anxiety is making it harder for staff members to maintain a "home-like" environment at the Shelter.

Adding to these unavoidable difficulties, the First Baptist Church has requested that staff pass out more blankets and keep the thermostat as low as is possible to defray some of its utility costs. The Church has long since used up the $20,000 allocated by the Olympia City Council last February, and has had to pay Shelter expenses out of its own pocket for several months. Some of our "oldtimers" have been distressed over this turn of events, but most men have been understanding and simply taken more blankets. This policy was rather new at press time, however, so perhaps next month I will have to revise this admittedly off-the-cuff assessment.

With regard to staff-generated policy, the shelter staff meeting on Sunday, January 9th included discussions on the following issues:

(a) Many questions have been raised by staff members concerning the use of the Fireside Rooms. There have been several instances where a new man has been thrown out by the 'oldtimers', simply because the men who sleep there every night feel they have "squatter's rights" on these privileged, more private and "home-like" spaces. Tim Leipold, Shelter Coordinator, suggested that a "mob mentality" was beginning to become a common enough occurrence to warrant staff intervention. After some discussion, it was clear that staff members disagreed at to how much of a problem these territorial disputes were. Eventually, Tim discussed his concerns openly with the Fireside oldtimers in mid-January, insisting that no shelter guest has exclusive rights to deprive any man of his right to bed down where he pleases. Resolved: Disagreements are to be handled on a case-by-case basis by the staff member on duty.

(b) At our previous staff meeting in December, it was suggested that the Shelter should open earlier to ensure that no man was forced to stay out in the cold after the Bread and Roses Drop-In closed at 7:00. The First Baptist congregation agreed, and gave their OK to allowing staff to open the Shelter at 7:00. This policy raised the unforseen question of when the men should be allowed to get their mattresses and set up their bedding. Resolved: 8:00 PM is the designated time to unload the stage.

(c) Staff have commiserated half-jokingly about the difficulty they are having waking certain men up at 6:45 AM. These men have refused to get up until 7:30 or later despite proddings, cajolings, outright shakings, and other ineffective ploys. Resolved: Waking habitually intractable men up is one of the less gratifying and potentially frustrating elements of being a shelter staff, but setting a wake-up policy is useless at this last stage of our shelter's history. Each primary staff member must take responsibility for waking up the men as humanely as possible.

To end on a positive note: I am pleased to report two of our Shelter's "regulars", T.J. Nelson and Dale, have recently secured permanent housing. (Consistent readers of this publication may recall that Dale wrote about he and his wife Diana's problems finding housing in *Homeless News and Views* No. 1, Dec. '93.) Also noteworthy is the hopeful news that Mark Lamm left for Spokane on January 17th to participate in a three month alcohol rehabilitation program. And finally, I would like to close by publically thanking a quiet, anonymous, and indefatigable Hispanic gentlemen who has been of invaluable aid in helping staff members clean the Shelter in the morning. ¡Muchas gracias, señior! ♥

(Task Force, Cont.)

Army facility on Plum St. Mike Allen asserted that in a short-term emergency scenario, their facility could shelter 70 men. Several members of the Task Force Dean Hanks noted that since many men rejected Salvation Army policies, with many men choosing to stay at First Baptist Church instead, it was probably unrealistic for the Task Force to presume that these 70 beds would be filled. Dick Nichols suggested that there was a "communications problem" between the Salvation Army and the homeless men that needed to be addressed, perhaps by Ralph Smith and Mike Allen sitting down to discuss existing tensions and working out a resolution in the coming weeks.

Later, some alternative sites were suggested, with the following buildings or structures being investigated by those people most familiar with these sites: *Walt Jorgenson* —Tumwater Armory and the long-closed Nursing facility on Dennis St., *Sam Hochstatter, Ken Schwilk, and Dick Nichols* —Churches in Thurston County, *Eric Brown*— Olympia Armory, and *Martin Lee* (Evergreen student and member of SCHEM)—The Evergreen State College. Eric Brown will compile a report of these investigations for the Week 4 meeting.

With regard to service and funding considerations, the Task Force made only a few tentative proposals. Staffing, hours of operation, rules and expectations regarding behavioral policies and private funding resources were all talked about, but it seemed obvious that no resolutions would be made since a suitable site has yet to be found. The public commentary in the last half hour of the meeting was generally critical of the HSCTF expecting the Salvation Army to meet the needs of a large percentage of the men now staying at the First Baptist Shelter. The general consensus view among the audience who spoke out appeared to be that the Salvation Army utilize their extra beds for homeless single women and children, with the homeless men running a new shelter in any of the alternative sites discussed above by themselves.

***Week 4*, January 28** (tentative agenda, summarized by Ralph Smith, Homeless Representative on the HSCTF): "We will probably be trying to answer questions like: Do we want/need one huge shelter? Three or four smaller shelters? Or some system of dispersed siting? Where will these site(s) be? In or near downtown? Far from downtown with transportation provided? Our goal will be to create a list of possible shelter sites."

Ralph's personal commentary on the HSCTF

"I am somewhat amazed at the speed with which the Task Force is moving after only two meetings. I expected that a slow, bureaucratic pace would be the norm.

"It is somewhat frightening to be the advocate of such a diverse group of people as the homeless of Olympia. Some homeless persons have college degrees while other have problems with basic reading and math. Somehow I must represent all. I must work to become a knowledgeable advocate for those unfortunate enough to not have adequate housing. I'm not simply a token homeless person occupying a chair at a meeting.

"Although some of my brother advocates have chosen to work outside the system (i.e. the bridge 'Occupation'), I must work from inside to build a community-based shelter built with cooperation between homeless and the citizens of Olympia. As a Task force member, my views and opinions are actively solicited by the other members of the HSCTF." ♥

Not In My Back Yard

by Ralph Smith

NIMBY— "We will treat only Olympia's homeless."
NIMBY— In the recent mayoral race, one candidate suggested treating only Seattle's homeless. Buy the rest a bus ticket out of town and bar the gates to new homeless.
NIMBY— In Columbia, businessmen have posted signed letters asking for the extermination of the homeless.
NIMBY— Send them down to the shelter (dump).
NIMBY—They need help, but not near me.
May I ask:
Where in Olympia can I go?
Where in Washington can I survive?
Where in the US can I live?
Where on earth can I exist?

Ralph Smith serves on the Board of Directors for the Sustainable Community Homeless Empowerment Movement (SCHEM) . In addition, he is presently representing the homeless community on the Homeless Services Community Task Force (see related story on the HSCTF in this issue of Homeless News and Views.)

THE WILDERNESS MISSION: ONE HOMELESS MAN'S PROPOSAL

by Chris Krawczyk

Editor's Note: *I got to know Chris Krawczyk while doing some research for the* Homeless News and Views *story in our last issue entitled "4th Ave. Bridge 'Occupation'". Chris was one of the most consistent supporters of the Occupation, risking arrest by choosing to sleep under the bridge while his fellow 'Occupier', Gary Fields, spent six days in jail. A college graduate, Chris has chosen to remain homeless in lieu of chasing after a middle-class dream that he feels is a strait-jacket on his personal liberty. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he carries the majority of his worldly possessions on his back, and enjoys camping out on his own rather than staying at the First Baptist Shelter.*

The night before the solidarity rally and potluck that was held on December 21st under the bridge, Chris told me that he suddenly felt a compelling need to write down his ideas concerning a possible long-term solution to housing the homeless in the Olympia area. He handed me 15 pages of material and asked me to "make some sense out to it," and what follows is an edited version of his rough draft. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to have this version of his draft approved by him personally, since he left town in early January to find seasonal employment in California. Still, in view of the timeliness of the subject of his essay, I have decided to risk printing it now rather than wait for his return. I have tried to keep his ideas as intact as possible, adding a few phrases here and there for the sake of maintaining coherency.

We have not been living under the 4th Ave. bridge since December 1st to get the city to let homeless people stay there. We are there because if no affordable housing solutions are found, a lot of us will end up living under the 4th Ave. bridge rather than being forced into another temporary shelter. Our purpose is to get the city to work *with* the homeless on long-term solutions that would get us out of our situation and into some new opportunities that would give us work skills and a place to call our own without worrying about police arresting us and throwing us out of our homes. We have only until March 1st to get our point across and get something started, or this city is going to have over 100 single men out on the streets, camping out and sleeping in more places than just under the bridge.

We want a place we can stay at that is self-governed so that people won't have to be paid to watch us. We are interested in working with our local politicians to find a piece of undeveloped land that we can develop into a sustainable community. In this "Wilderness Mission", we would be able to clear out and assign lots for people to camp in or build a lean-to shelter. Each site could have an appropriately-sized burning pit made of cinder blocks, with public spaces (e.g. kitchen, registration office, showers, bathrooms and community room) centrally located. We could have assigned rooms for families or people who couldn't live outdoors, with everyone being held responsible for their own living spaces.

The Wilderness Mission would not be just another "holding tank" for the homeless, where people sit around watching T.V., drinking coffee, and playing cards; it would raise public awareness about homelessness while giving everyone in the community a chance to find some real solutions to this increasing problem.

Anyone that would want to stay in our Wilderness Mission would have to register and apply for a camping permit, and in exchange for being able to stay there, each person would have to do a certain amount of Community Service work for the Parks Dept. In this way, the homeless could develop and maintain several of our undeveloped recreation areas that our city or county tax dollars can't afford to pay for. At the same time, we could all gain more responsibility, self-pride, and some work experience that would show people that we are not the lazy, uneducated drug addicts and alcoholics that many people make us out to be.

The possibilities are endless for us if we could get some instruction, guidance, and help to put this together. The city wouldn't be forced to provide another closet to stuff the homeless into. Instead, we would have the chance to do something for ourselves while learning to create and maintain another city or town park for much less money than is usually spent on similar sized projects. Our Wilderness Mission could become a model for other homeless communities to get involved with in order to better themselves. It could produce more jobs while reserving the city taxpayers' money for countless other services like short term trade school and education programs, treatment programs for our community's mentally and physically disabled persons, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs for our community's substance abusers.

The Wilderness Mission, if it were to be fully successful, would transform itself into an outdoor classroom. Maybe a few local wood shop teachers, land developers, tradesmen, and contractors could come in and help instruct us. We could have courses in proper trail planning and clearing, carpentry, plumbing, electrical installation—all the skilled trades we would need to make the Mission a success. When we found a field that each of us would like to work at and learn more about, the contractor could hire on certain people for a lower wage scale than a qualified tradesman would get in exchange for job experience and training. Eventually, many of the homeless could receive a completion certificate and enough on-the-job experience to get a job on their own and move up another step of the ladder of life.

We can supply the sweat and blood to get these ideas a reality, but we need help in making sure these projects are completed to the Parks Department's (or the City's) specifications. Later on, this help could be phased out as we learned how to run the park on our own. After working at the Wilderness Mission, the homeless could have a better chance at succeeding in careers and goals that few of us have had the opportunity to participate in.

So think about it: wouldn't *you* rather have a job or an opportunity with a future, or would you rather clean toilets for the rest of your life? Put yourself in our shoes. We weren't fortunate enough to have supportive people around us to help us on our way like most people do, but if we can get something like this going and have it be a success, we can cross the starting line this time with a lot more than we had when we were just sitting around, doing nothing, and being looked down upon.

So just because it may look like we are being belligerent and rebellious by staying under the bridge to a few people, we feel that if we do this long enough we will get recognized eventually. Then, somewhere, somehow, some way, someone will give us the chance to try out our plan for getting out of the dark corner we are in. We are constantly told to get jobs, but the type of jobs available to us don't pay enough in wages for even a single man to pay rent. With the cooperation of the community, we could set up a very efficient solution to the homeless problem.

I think that the taxpayers would rather see their tax dollars go into providing opportunities for homeless people to become independent. The Wilderness Mission would not be just another "holding tank" for the homeless, where people sit around watching T.V., drinking coffee, and playing cards; it would raise public awareness about homelessness while giving everyone in the community a chance to find some real solutions to this increasing problem. At the same time, the homeless could be given the education to dream of a new living situation, a new job or career goal—wouldn't that be great! All we need is a little open-mindedness from a lot of people (including ourselves).

This is only a rough draft of one possible solution, but it is the kind of solution that would give us the kind of help we need to get back on our feet. Give us a chance. All homeless people do not fit the stereotype of the shiftless bum constantly on the lookout for handouts. Many of us would love to be able to work for a living and have a place of our own, instead of having to rely on public assistance and food stamps. Our dependency on these programs is a road to nowhere, and unless we all work together to provide our entire community with *real* opportunities for a better future, we will stay on that long road.

If you would like to make suggestions about this rough draft, or would like to volunteer some of your time to help us help ourselves, please leave a message at Bread & Roses for me, Chris Krawczyk (705-1125). Thanks for reading this, and I hope to hear from you soon. ♥

The Public Myths about the Poor and Homeless

By David Wagner, Ph. D.

Editor's note : The following is reprinted by permission from *Street Voice*, a homeless newsletter that is sold on the streets of Baltimore, Maryland by its homeless populace. Subscriptions to *Street Voice* are available ($6 a year for individuals and $12 a year for institutions and agencies) by writing to *Street Voice*, P.O. Box 22962, Baltimore, MD 21203.

(David Wagner has hung with and worked with street people in Portland, Maine and is the author of a new book ***Checkerboard Square: Culture and Resistance in a Homeless Community***, published by Westview Press. Wagner's book challenges the way homeless people are portrayed by the public, the press, academics, and advocates.)

Homelessness and poverty became big news in the 1980's. But generally only two views were expressed in the countless television spots, newspapers articles or speeches by political leaders. Led by former President Reagan, much of the public blamed poor people for their situation; they were "bums", mentally ill, or chose to be on the streets. On the other hand, liberal politicians and journalists presented the homeless and poor as pathetic victims of the economy, but treated them as having no minds or will of their own. In their view, they needed rehabilitation, treatment, and the help of social services to help them see how they were living wrong.

My own conversations with street people suggest it is the *public* that doesn't understand the realities of poverty and street life, not those who live it. The public wants to believe all is right with the world—with the workplace, with the family, with social services—and that the problem lies with the homeless. Yet I will briefly suggest that the problem lies with *you*, the public.

THE PUBLIC'S DEMAND: "GET A JOB!!"

Overwhelmingly, when the public sees a street person hanging out, it angrily demands "Get a job!" Even liberals can't understand why poor people don't jump with joy when offered a minimum wage job at a pizza parlor or convenience store. Long ago, the famous philosopher Bertrand Russell suggested the work ethic serves the rich, not the poor. When these jobs pay less money than one can earn working "off the books" (collecting bottles or scrap metal, or surviving out of the mainstream), how much sense does it make to work for nearly nothing with no benefits? Why should they be beholden to employers who fire homeless and poor people whenever they want while treating them like slaves?

To the person making $50,000 a year, "get a job" seems like a rational demand. For the middle class person to earn money illegally ("off the books") is also fine, but if a homeless person panhandles, collects welfare, or shares goods with his chums, the public is furious. It is true; SOME HOMELESS AND POOR PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO WORK AT LOW-PAYING MISERABLE JOBS. Why blame them for realizing the limits of the "work ethic"?

THE FAMILY: NO GREAT COMFORT

When the public sees a crowd of street people, they often want to know, "Where are their families? Why aren't street kids at home with their parents? Why aren't older men and women home with their children?", and so forth. But the reality is that the warm, loving families that the television and newspapers show don't exist for many poor and homeless people! Many street people have been physically, sexually, or psychologically abused by their families. Or they have been rejected by family members because they are poor or different. Many homeless people, particularly street kids, tell me they'd rather be in the streets than their "homes".

GOV'T SHELTERS AND WELFARE SERVICES: HELP OR HARM?

If the public sees a person on the street that they are not ready to send to jail, they ask, "Why doesn't he or she go to a shelter? Why isn't he or she being seen by a counselor?" The public seems to think that the social services offered to homeless or poor people are wonderful and noble, and that they are so attractive, street people can live "high on the hog." The reality is that government aid comes at a deep cost. Many street people in cities and towns across the country, report that shelters rob them of their dignity, freedom, and privacy, and that getting most social benefits requires extreme intrusion into their personal lives and behavior. Revealing yourself to social service workers sometimes results in your child being taken away, or getting shipped to a mental hospital or other institution.

My point is that even those who help the homeless and poor often miss the realities of living in America in the 1990's. The problem is not the homeless or the poor and how they live their lives, or whether they are "mentally ill" or drinking, but the society we live in. Rather than build more shelters or create more minimum wage dead-end jobs, something drastic will have to change in our country in order for us to really solve the problems of homelessness and poverty. Few if any people from either political party or powerful position in America really wants to entertain this notion. ♥

A TEAR FOR THE PAST, A ROSE FOR THE FUTURE

by Anonymous

Shadows in the dark,
Gateways to the Darkside.
A speeding bullet,
Richocheting through flesh;
The conclusion left by flailing fists.
Society warring on society!
With the future in our hands,
We take pleasure in killing one another?
The homeless cowering in fear,
Aiding the greed of the G-Man's budget.
Providing support for the killing machines.
Chaos and destruction will come,
Followed by a tear of sorrow for
The needless death of an innocent child.
The result is a broken and
Angered heart. A rage promising
Sweet revenge.
Thus the cycle never ends.

But we, the teens, and people united
Have a greater power than any known power
The power to bring peace, love, and joy
To the world today.

I am the Prophet of the Lord

by Sam

Editor's Note: *I met Sam at the Asterick Café while I was putting up a poster advertising the December 21st potluck under the 4th Ave. Bridge. One of our community's "hidden" homeless, Sam lives in his car and told me some stories about the hassles he receives in trying to find a place to park without getting arrested. In one instance, a Capital Mall Security person had placed an "ABANDONED VEHICLE" placard on his 'home', and if Sam had not arrived back to his vehicle in time to remove it, he would have had to spend the holidays without a place to stay. He told me he confronted the Security person later, and even got him to admit that he had known that Sam was a homeless man who depended on his vehicle for shelter. A thoughtful, introspective and philosophical individual, Sam attributes such carefree acts of vindictiveness and institutional thuggery to a widening division between economic classes. I asked him to contribute his ideas to* Homeless News and Views, *and , although reluctant at first, he handed me the following, a self-styled prose poem , a few days later at the December 21st potluck.*

I am 50 years old and homeless. I got this way completely on my own.

There, I've said it for you. It's like the opening line to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. I absolve you of guilt by writing these words, and I meant to.

You are the housing-advantaged and I am the housing disabled. You enjoy the right to privacy, the right to be secure in your possessions—I have evidently given up those rights.

I have nothing of this nation's wealth. I simply received less for work than the cost of life. Now I am homeless. But to be completely honest, I have grown lazy; I am not encouraged to change by the path that got me here.

I am fully ashamed of my homelessness; I am humiliated by my circumstance. I have heard your anger, and I assure you that if I could stop this vulgar homeless behavior, I would. But everything seems to be yours, even the rules.

You may have won the game, but only for the time being. Other players are arriving everyday, with their own rules, too. Second stringers from L.A. and other mean cities more familiar with your absolutes. I can tell you honestly, their game is the most exciting I have ever watched. For them, victory is loyalty, law is necessity, loss is death. Your team will cheer "Free market capitalism," but their team will cheer "Survival of the fittest".

I am 50 years old and homeless. I got this way completely on my own. While I am from a dying generation that once validated my outworn humility, the new homeless generation hasn't heard of it. They don't believe you, they don't believe your gods, and they don't forgive you. ♥

A STORY OF MY LIFE ON FIRE

by Anonymous

I cry a tear of loneliness,
Beggin' to feel a loved caress.
I see a man on the corner,
"'Scuse me, sir, could you spare a quarter?"
He laughs at me and walks away.
Now at this time I'm feelin' ashamed,
I'm not as bad as society thinks
When you see me, your shoulder shrinks
I say "Hi" when I see you on the street
But we both know you've got me beat
You have a house, a wife and a kid,
Well, under the bridge is where I live.

Anti-Civil Rights Initiatives Filed

Anna Schlecht

Two competing factions of the radical right filed their initiatives on Monday, January 12th as separate bids to legalize discrimination against bisexuals, gays, lesbians, and trans people. Once these two initiatives are approved, their signature gathering campaigns will hit the streets of communities all across the state.

As anticipated, the Citizen's Alliance of Washington, Lon Mabon's Washington franchise, filed their initiative titled "Minority Status and Child Protection Act". The CAW delivered on it's promise to be the "82nd Airborne" by attacking child custody, same-sex marriages, government funding for any form of "expression or approval for homosexuality", and any potential or existing statutory protections for civil rights pertaining to housing or employment. Their initiative also makes special mention of only recognizing transgender or transsexual people by their birth gender.

A new organization called "the Washington Committee for Equal Rights not Special Rights" filed their initiative hours before the CAW. They are speculated to be an umbrella committee of other radical right groups, including Traditional Values Coalition, which was formed by Robert Larimer upon his ouster from CAW, the Youth Action Coalition, which the Seattle Gay News has likened to a "Christian Act Up!", the Washington Public Affairs Council, the Washington Association of Families, and others. On a slightly more compact scale with, their initiative zeroed in on barring any state, county, city or town from enacting any policies that extend civil protections, and prohibiting any school from "presenting, promoting or approving homosexuality...". As a testament to their "heightened awareness" of diversity, their initiative makes it a point to list out their targets specifically as "homosexual, bisexual, transsexual, transvestite...". While being characterized as a somewhat more "moderate" approach, the intent is still largely the same.

WCF organized a powerful response to these attacks by holding press conferences in nine locations across the state. Here in Olympia, we gathered with a diverse group of local civil rights leaders and elected officials to denounce the initiatives.

[See cover article]

Despite the ominous prospect of fighting two initiatives at once, it was heartening to see the incredible range of support through out our state. Building upon that support will ensure our victory. It's going to take everything we have and more to sweep the radical right's campaign of intolerance into the dumpster of history. Thurston County WCF Hands Off Washington Campaign urges you to get involved in this civil rights battle, please call us at 206-786-6608, or write us at PO Box 5619, Lacey WA 98503. ♥

Thurston County WCF Hands Off Washington Campaign urges you to get involved in this civil rights battle, please call us at 206-786-6608, or write us at PO Box 5619, Lacey WA 98503.

Anti-Gay Initiatives and Legislation Report

Arizona

The group Arizonans for Traditional Values says they will file a referendum similar to Colorado's Amendment 2, possibly as early as November, 1994. The Arizona Human Rights Fund is opposing the anti-gay efforts.

Florida

The American Family Political Committee, set up by the state leader of the American Family Association, is gathering signatures on an anti-gay state constitutional amendment. Concerned Citizens of Alachua County has already obtained enough signatures to place two initiatives limiting civil rights on the November, 1994, ballot. Ku Klux Klan members have demonstrated in support of the initiatives. Right-wing activities are being countered by Floridians United Against Discrimination and Gainesville's Human Rights Council.

Idaho

The Idaho Citizens Alliance, a close affiliate of the Oregon/U.S. Citizens Alliance, has collected more than half the signatures needed to place an anti-gay amendment on the 1994 state ballot. Resisting the ICA's efforts is Idaho Voices for Human Rights.

Maine

Voters in Lewiston repealed an ordinance adding sexual orientation to the human rights code there, fueling a statewide drive by Concerned Maine Families to collect signatures for an anti-gay amendment to the state's constitution. Pro-gay support is being organized by the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

Michigan

Yet another Colorado Amendment-2 clone, here supported by the Michigan Family Value Committee. The initiative could appear on Michigan's ballot in 1994. Michigan Organization for Human Rights and the Triangle Foundation are working to defeat their efforts.

Missouri

The Amendment Coalition, buoyed by volunteers from the Christian Coalition, has launched a drive for a Colorado-style anti-gay ballot measure. Show Me Equality and the Privacy Rights Education Project stand against the Coalition.

Ohio

A newly-elected city council member who led a successful effort to repeal sections of Cincinnati's human rights ordinance dealing with sexual orientation has now said he will introduce legislation to repeal all city protections against discrimination, including discrimination based on race. According to The Cincinnati Enquirer, about 80% of the funds spent in the first repeal effort—some $390,100—came to Ohio from Colorado for Family Values, the group behind Colorado's successful anti-gay Amendment 2. Opposing the council member's stance is Equality Cincinnati.

Oregon

Some 17 Oregon cities and counties have passed anti-gay legislation, and five more will vote on anti-gay charter amendments this spring. Passage in July 1993 of a state law prohibiting localities from withdrawing civil rights from one group of people has not slowed anti-gay efforts by the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), who is filing suit against the law and continuing to press courts to allow votes on local initiatives even though their results may not be enforced. Support Our Communities and the Western Field Office of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are working to stop the OCA.

Texas

Concerned Texans is organizing to repeal the Austin City Council's approval of a limited domestic partnership ordinance for city employees, through a planned May 1994 vote. Gay- rights supporters are organizing.

Washington State

Anti-gay rights initiatives have been introduced by the Citizens Alliance of Washington, a chapter of the Oregon/U.S. Citizens Alliance, and by the Washington Committee for Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, a group formed with the help of the Tacoma-based Washington Public Affairs Council. The initiative sponsors have until July to gather the 181,000+ signatures required to put each proposal on the November 1994 statewide ballot. In addition, Rep.Val Stevens, R-Arlington, has introduced two bills into the House which if passed would prevent lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans peoples from acting as foster or adoptive parents, and prohibit mention of homosexuality in the state's schools, as "positive," "normal," "acceptable," "legitimate," or "natural." Washington Citizens for Fairness/Hands Off Washington has formed to protect the civil rights of all Washingtonians, and the Pride Foundation is working for passage of a law which would guarantee residents freedom from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Information from news reports, and People for the American Way. ♥

KAOS
Presents In Concert at
TESC Library
The Righteous Mothers
South Sound Singing Superstars!
Saturday, February 5th 8:00 p.m.
Adv. Tickets: $8 KAOS Sub/students $10 Gen.
$10/$12 At the Door

SUKAY Indigenous music of the Andes
Friday, February 25th 8:00 p.m.
Adv. Tickets: $8 KAOS Sub/students $12 Gen.
$10/$14 At the Door

Tickets available at TESC Bookstore, Rainy Day Records, The Bookmark, Positively 4th Street

Concert information: 866-6000, extension 6894

OLYMPIA PUBLIC RADIO, 89.3 FM

Civil Rights in the 90s: The Gay Rights Debate

Joli Sandoz

Civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans peoples form the common denominator of five pieces of legislation introduced last month in Olympia. The sole proposal to support gay rights, House Bill 1443, would forbid employers, landlords, restaurant owners and others from discriminating in their businesses on the basis of sexual orientation.

Two initiatives sponsored by groups opposing gay rights would allow discrimination, by stopping Washington state governments from defining it as illegal. The first, backed by the Citizens Alliance of Washington, a close affiliate of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, would bar "homosexuals" from being classed in law as a minority, prevent the expenditure of public funds for anything "expressing approval of homosexuality," prohibit same sex marriages, and prevent homosexual parents from retaining custody of their own children.

Washington Committee for Equal Rights, Not Special Rights put the second initiative forward. The chair of the Tacoma-based Washington Public Affairs Council (WPAC) told *The Spokesman Review* that his organization helped form the Committee rather than sponsor an anti-gay initiative itself because of fears that WPAC's conservative stance on taxes and abortion would drive away potential support. The Committee's initiative, if voted into law, would forbid all local and state governments and school districts from enacting policies making "homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, or transvestism" a legal basis for any "person to maintain any special classification . . . claim of discrimination; or special right or protection."

Rep. Val Stevens, R-Arlington and a WPAC advisor, introduced two anti-gay rights bills into the state House in January. Through this legislation, she seeks to deny members of the gay community opportunities to act as foster and adoptive parents, and would forbid schools from allowing mention of "homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality or transvestism as positive, normal behavior."

Supporters of the initiatives and Steven's bills insist that HB 1443 gives members of the gay community special rights not available to other Americans, even though it includes straight people—the bill defines sexual orientation as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality"—and adds that characteristic to a list of eight others on which discrimination is already forbidden. The Committee's initiative adds that laws preventing "homosexuals" from getting special rights are "necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, morals, or safety" of Washington's government.

But opponents say the proposed anti-gay rights laws actually rewrite the Constitution. By preventing government from responding to complaints of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans people about discrimination based on sexual orientation, the initiatives require government to single out a particular group of people and treat them differently—something the Constitution says government cannot do without a compelling reason. In contrast to H.B.1443, which would make illegal discrimination based on sexual identity, a characteristic possessed by all human beings, the anti-gay rights laws target certain individuals.

An often-heated debate about the place of gay, bisexual, trans and lesbian peoples in public life underlies all five proposals. Arguments for both sides are often framed in terms of "civil rights," a concept, according to American Civil Liberties Union-Washington education director Doug Honig, which addresses "opportunity to participate equally in society."

The U.S. Constitution and its amendments guarantee certain basic rights to citizens and most non-citizen residents. These fundamental rights rest on common beliefs about what it means o be American beliefs written into the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Fundamental rights include such familiar freedoms as those of religion, speech, the press, and assembly. The Bill of Rights, the Constitution's first ten amendments, primarily protects American's rights from actions by the federal government. Backers saw in these amendments the chance to prevent majorities from using government to violate the rights of minorities and individuals.

"What civil rights protections give you," says Julie Shapiro, "is the right not to be treated differently, the right to be treated as everyone else is treated." Equality of treatment, in the tradition of American civil rights struggles since the 1860s, is what gay rights debates of the 1990s are all about.

In practice, civil rights remained the ideal rather than the real until well into the 20th century. Legislators never intended the Bill of Rights to apply to Native Americans or to Africans brought to the U.S. to labor as slaves, for example. Congress and the courts often ignored its provisions when issues arose concerning women, union organizers, aliens, immigrants, and other unpopular or disadvantaged groups.

Even the Constitutional amendments passed just after the Civil War—which abolished slavery, extended Constitutional guarantees to safeguard individuals against state government activity, and outlawed the use of race to deny someone the right to vote—were immediately undercut by "Jim Crow" laws designed to keep African Americans apart from white society. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) credits the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founded in 1909, with the first court challenges of laws violating Constitutionally-protected rights.

The courage and commitment of those involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, which focused on eliminating race-based discrimination, resulted in laws protecting people's civil rights not only from actions by the federal and state governments, but also by individuals. Legislation and court decisions eliminated segregation in a variety of settings, and protected equal opportunity in employment as well as access to voting, education, housing, and public facilities and services .

Galvanized by the struggles of African Americans, other groups traditionally disempowered followed their lead. The scope of civil rights activity across the nation broadened, creating opportunities for people illegally discriminated against to ask for correction of the situation, and in some cases, compensation. In his ACLU-W history *On Freedom's Frontier*, Honig details civil rights struggles of the 1960s and 70s in Washington state. Native Americans advocated for realization of their treaty rights, including fishing. Cases filed on behalf of Hispanic farmer workers in the Yakima valley resulted in enforcement of their rights to vote and meet with union organizers and other people of their own choosing. And voters approved an Equal Rights Amendment to the state Constitution in 1972, forbidding discrimination based in gender.

Today Washington state civil rights law forbids discrimination against any inhabitant based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex [gender], marital status, age or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability. The law specifically covers employment, housing, insurance, credit, commerce, and access to facilities and services provided for the public.

This legislation is necessary, the law itself reads, because "such discrimination threatens not only the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state." In a successful democracy, citizens must be able to participate fully in common life.

Although people talk about "rights" to health care and other services such as housing, says Julie Shapiro, a lawyer and assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound School of Law, she points out that these may be thought of as human rights rather than the narrower term civil rights. In the strictest sense, civil rights are limited to those spelled out in the Constitution, Bill of Rights and subsequent laws. "Legally," she explains, "you don't have any civil rights except what the law gives you, and you can read the list in statute."

But constitutional phrases outlining fundamental freedoms are vague enough to be subject to many interpretations. What exactly is "freedom of speech," for example, and how can it be lived out?

Rather than dictate *what* an individual says, civil rights legislation attempts to provide the *right to say it*. Gay-rights supporters and those who wish to prevent protections of gays against discrimination may say what they think on the subject, a freedom which means that the law favors not the beliefs underlying the words, but the right to speak and write them. By guaranteeing and enforcing this right, legislators and the courts do not endorse or pro-

(Continued next page)

Anti-discrimination Bill Needs Your Help

A bill that would add "sexual orientation" to the state's anti-discrimination law may pass the Legislature this year after being derailed by opposition in the state Senate last spring. Currently, state law bars discrimination against individuals based on a number of personal characteristics in such areas as housing, public accommodations, and financial matters.

The "sexual orientation" language in HB 1443 would protect all orientations equally; heterosexual, bisexual, and homosexual. This simple protection bill contains no "affirmative action"-style provisions or "special rights" for any group of people; and , in fact, contains specific prohibitions against such unequal treatment.

While the coalition of organizations and individuals supportive of HB 1443 has grown tremendously over the past couple of years, legislative approval of the bill is by no means guaranteed. Our legislators, and especially our senators, need to hear of our support for equal rights and equal opportunity for all.

The legislative task team of Hands Off Washington of Thurston County urges everyone to call your two members of the House of Representatives and your senator and ask them to support HB 1443. You can leave a message for all of them by using the toll-free Legislative Hotline, 1-800-562-6000. You can also leave the same message for the governor using the hotline. Follow up your call with a brief letter to your senator, letting her or him know how important this issue is to you, your family and friends, and your community.

As the anti-gay initiative proponents begin signature-gathering this month, passage of HB 1443 will send the crystal clear message that Washington state is inhospitable ground for their campaigns of fear and hate.

(Civil Rights, cont.)

mote the ideas put forward by either group.

In a nutshell, then, laws forbid discrimination on certain characteristics—such as race, gender, and age—specifically chosen and enforced because lawmakers and courts recognize that historically these have proven to be the genesis of unjust treatment. In contrast to the vagueness of the Constitution, recent civil rights law and court decisions are more specific. Even an older African American man who practices the Islamic religion can legally be evicted by landlords who perceive him as gay. Why? Because though laws protect him against discrimination based on the listed characteristics of age, race, creed and gender, they do not protect him against discrimination based on his sexual orientation.

Enter the quest for "gay rights." The term is somewhat of a misnomer, since in theory members of the gay community have the rights of any U.S. resident or citizen. But as is often the case for people with disabilities, recent immigrants, women, people of color, and others protected by civil rights laws, these rights are elusive in practice. Gay rights proponents want protections of the rights of bisexual, trans, gay and lesbian people to housing, public accommodation, and employment. Opponents, as indicated by the legislation and initiatives introduced here this year, hope to prevent members of the gay community from obtaining these and other protections.

To get a handle on the everyday issues addressed by the conflicting proposals, imagine this scenario. Paul, a driver for a small parcel delivery service and the father of two daughters, meets Jim at a popular gay bar. They decide to walk to Paul's apartment, which he rents from a couple who frequently declare that they will never rent to "those filthy homosexuals." Paul's daughters provide his cover. On their walk, Jim talks about his job as an English teacher and cross country coach at a suburban junior high school. Deep in conversation, the two don't notice their danger. Suddenly, five young men wielding knives and steel-toed boots shove them into an alley.

At the hospital, police officers want to take statements. But Paul knows that if he testifies at an eventual trial revealing his sexual orientation, he will lose his apartment and, if his ex-wife chooses, his visits with his children. Jim, too, cannot make an issue of the assault: he would soon be fired. As it is, a less-than-careful reporter on the police beat could print their names, or simply talk too freely. Paul and Jim are left to deal with their injuries, their anger—and their fear—however they can.

Although this story is fictitious, something like it happens nightly in American cities. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reports that service agencies in five major U.S. metropolitan areas reported a total of 1,898 anti-gay "episodes" in 1992, an average of one incident per night in each city. In Washington state, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs in 1992 tallied 76 bias crimes classified by local law enforcement officers as motivated by perceived sexual orientation—a total second only to that of race-based hate violence. These figures do not include incidents of insult, harassment and unreported crime.

Violence looms as a frightening fact in many American lives. Equally troubling in the case of Paul and Jim, and thousands of other gay, lesbian, trans and bisexual people, is the fact that in most parts of the United States they do not have true access to their rights as Americans. When members of the gay community are beaten, fired, evicted, or denied access to their own children, effective legal recourse is usually denied them. Few jurisdictions have laws protecting the right to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation. And even where those laws exist, the disclosure of minority sexual identity required to seek redress often results in further discrimination.

Last year's inclusion of the phrase "sexual orientation" in Washington state's hate crimes law did give homosexuals, bisexuals—and heterosexuals—here nominal recourse in the case of bias offenses. But hate crimes are just one form of discrimination faced daily by Washington's residents of minority sexual identity. Almost half of the 5,267 Department of Social and Health Services straight and gay employees surveyed in 1992 believed that being openly lesbian, gay or bisexual negatively affected a person's chances for job advancement at the agency. The same year, sexual orientation was mentioned as a basis of perceived discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodation in roughly 10% of charges documented by the Seattle Human Right Department. Only race and gender come up more frequently. In both state government and Seattle, discrimination persists despite executive orders forbidding it when based on sexual orientation.

According to Edmun Lee, Assistant Director for Enforcement at the Washington State Human Rights Commission, addition of "sexual orientation" to laws against discrimination would provide a message that discrimination against bisexual, gay, lesbian and heterosexual people is wrong. "Knowing that a law exists can have an impact in preventing discrimination," he says. "The hope is that if people know there's a law against discrimination, they will be very careful and make sure that whether the issue is job opportunity or accessibility, they will practice that in a way free of discrimination."

The Commission would field complaints and educate the public about discrimination based on sexual orientation if HB 1443 passes this spring. And it would extend recourse, in the form of investigations, hearings, and possible recovery of damages or "other appropriate remedy." Under Washington's anti-discrimination laws, "distinctly private" groups such as fraternal organizations and religious institutions are exempt from compliance.

Eight states and the District of Columbia presently protect the rights of lesbians and gays through civil rights laws, as do a growing list of cities. In Washington state, local ordinances on the books in King County and the cities of Seattle and Pullman prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Olympia, Vancouver, Clallam County and the State of Washington have similar policies regarding public employment.

A federal anti-discrimination bill protecting the rights of lesbians and gay men to participate fully in American life has been put forward in Congress every year since 1975, according to Gregory King of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the country's largest lesbian gay rights advocacy organization. Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative Henry Waxman plan to introduce the bill again this year. King says, in Washington state, 1994 marks the eighteenth year in a row sponsors have put a version of HB 1443 on the annual legislative docket.

Why are the bills so controversial? Supporters recall the biased attitudes toward people of color which delayed passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for 22 years after its first introduction. Joan Fitzpatrick, associate dean and professor at the University of Washington School of Law, says the answer may lie in the ideals which drive the political process.

In practice, civil rights remained the ideal rather than the real until well into the 20th century. Legislators never intended the Bill of Rights to apply to Native Americans or to Africans brought to the U.S. to labor as slaves...

From a philosophical standpoint, Fitzpatrick says, civil rights are a "question of values. Do you want to live in an integrated society? If so, then housing laws [1960s federal legislation which forbids discrimination], for example, are important to that." Rather than a legal litmus test of specific requirements a category or group must pass to be included in the law, Fitzpatrick says, there is a "policy debate about whether a particular group should be treated a certain way."

Asked whether the housing laws affect the civil rights of landlords, by requiring them to restrict their own behavior, Fitzpatrick says that "When the housing act passed in 1968, it was a conscious value choice by Congress for society . . . The bill was adopted to prohibit discrimination. Socially [Congress decided], it was more important for those people to be treated without discrimination than it is for the other people in society to have the freedom to make that choice [to discriminate]."

Although any boundaries on freedom may seem suspicious at first glance, the Constitution protects Americans' rights to do as they wish—as long as those rights do not impinge on the rights of others. Julie Shapiro points out that laws against discrimination limit unfair practices only in certain well-defined situations.

"When people opposing gay rights say 'I have a right to discriminate, I have a right to make this judgement,' what they are really saying is [that they feel] 'I have a right to discriminate in my business'—that is, in services to the public," Shapiro says. "People are always going to have a right to think what they want, to choose their friends—to make choices in their personal life." HB 1443 applies only to public services.

Suzanne Goldberg sees something "legally wrong" with the so-called anti-gay initiatives, through which backers seek to bar governments from protecting the civil rights of the gay community. Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a non-profit group advocating nationally for the rights of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV, has written that such legislation actually "requires government to treat gay and lesbian people differently from all other people." Because members of the gay community could no longer ask government to pass laws providing recourse against discrimination arising from sexual orientation, a right possessed by all other citizens, the initiatives would violate the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law.

In the Summer 1993 issue of The National Lawyers Guild Practitioner, Goldberg and attorney Mary Newcombe analyze legally-based strategies to oppose laws which bar civil rights protections for lesbians and gay men. An understanding of the Constitution, they write, can "provide a solid base from which to argue that such initiatives are simply ineligible for placement on a ballot and subjection to popular vote." In fact, "every court to consider these antigay initiatives has found them unconstitutional."

The authors list three legal paths courts have taken in striking down laws limiting gay rights. Two utilize the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, reasoning district judge Jeffrey Bayless endorsed in rejecting Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 last December. Advocates used a third approach in overturning a 1988 initiative vote in Oregon, which nullified a Governor's executive order banning discrimination in state government on the basis of sexual orientation. The Oregon Court of Appeals restored the order, making such discrimination again illegal. Without the order, the court ruled, public employees' right to free speech would be restricted since they could be fired for speaking out on lesbian and gay-related issues.

"What civil rights protections give you," says Julie Shapiro, "is the right not to be treated differently, the right to be treated as everyone else is treated." Equality of treatment, in the tradition of American civil rights struggles since the 1860s, is what gay rights debates of the 1990s are all about. ♥

Creating Economic Democracy with Local Currency

Paul Glover

Here in Ithaca, New York, we've begun to gain control of the social and environmental effects of commerce by issuing over $44,000 of our own local currency, to over 800 participants, since 1991. Thousands of purchases and many new friendships have been made with our money, and hundreds of thousands of dollars of local trading has been added to the what we call our Grassroots National Product.

We printed our own money because we watched Federal dollars come to town, shake a few hands, then leave to buy rainforest lumber and fight wars. Ithaca's HOURS, by contrast, stay in our region to help us hire each other. While dollars make us increasingly dependent on multinational corporations and bankers, HOURS reinforce community trading and expand commerce which is more accountable to our concern for ecology and social justice.

Here's how it works: the Ithaca HOUR is Ithaca's $10.00 bill, because ten dollars is the average hourly wage in Tompkins County, New York. Ithaca HOURS notes, printed in four denominations, buy plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, roofing, nursing, chiropractic, child care, car and bike repair, food, eyeglasses, firewood, gifts, and thousands of other goods and services. Our credit union accepts them for mortgage and loan fees. People pay rent with HOURS. The best restaurants in town take them, as do movie theaters, bowling alleys, two large locally-owned grocery stores, and thirty farmer's market vendors.

Ithaca's new HOURly minimum wage lifts the lowest paid up without knocking down higher wages. For example, several of Ithaca's organic farmers are paying the highest farm labor wages in the Western Hemisphere: $10.00 of spending power per HOUR. These farmers benefit by the HOUR's loyalty to local agriculture. On the other hand, dentists, massage therapists and lawyers charging more than the $10.00 average per hour are permitted to collect several HOURS hourly. But increasingly we hear of professional services being provided at our equitable wage.

Everyone who agrees to accept HOURS is paid four HOURS ($40.00) for being listed in our newsletter *Ithaca Money*. Every eight months they may apply to be paid an additional two HOURS, as a reward for continuing their participation. This is how we gradually and carefully increase the per capita supply of our money.

Ithaca Money's 1,200 listings, rivalling the *Yellow Pages*, are a portrait of our community's capability, bringing into the marketplace time and skills not employed by the conventional market. Residents are proud of income gained by doing work they enjoy. We encounter each other as fellow Ithacans, rather than as winners and losers scrambling for dollars.

The Success Stories of 145 participants published thus far in *Ithaca Money* testify to the acts of generosity and community that our system prompts. We're making a community while making a living. As we do so, we relieve the social desperation which has led to compulsive shopping and wasted resources.

Ithaca HOURS notes, printed in four denominations, buy plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, roofing, nursing, chiropractic, child care, car and bike repair, food, eyeglasses, firewood, gifts, etc...

At the same time Ithaca's locally-owned stores, which keep more wealth local, make sales and get spending power they otherwise would not have. And over $3,800 of local currency has been donated to 20 community organizations so far by the Barter Potluck, our wide-open governing body.

The Potluck, meeting twice monthly, acts as our "Municipal Reserve Board," making decisions about the printing, denominations, manner of issue, and grants and loans of HOURS, while sharing a good meal. It's more democratic and fiscally responsible than the Federal Reserve Board.

As we discover new ways to provide for each other, we reduce dependence on imports. At the same time, our greater self-reliance, rather than isolating Ithaca, gives us more potential to reach outward with ecological export industries. We can capitalize new businesses with loans of our own cash.

We regard Ithaca's HOURS as real money, backed by real people, real time, real skills and real tools. Dollars, by contrast, are funny money, backed no longer by gold or silver, but by less than nothing - $4.3 trillion of national debt.

The designs of Ithaca HOURS honors local features we respect, like native flowers, powerful waterfalls, crafts, farms and our children. The designs of Federal dollars, on the other hand, honor slave holders (Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Jackson) and the monuments of corporate government. Multi-colored HOURS, some printed on locally-made watermarked cattail (marsh reed) paper, all with serial numbers, are harder to counterfeit than dollars.

Local currency is a lot of fun, and it's legal. HOURS must be used within state lines (they may not compete with dollars as interstate currency) and denominations must be at least $1.00 (no "fractional currency"). They must be designed so that it is obvious that they are *not* dollars. And it should be noted that HOURS are taxable income when traded for professional goods or services.

Local currency is also lots of work and responsibility. To give other communities a boost, we've been providing a *Hometown Money Starter Kit*. The Kit explains step-by-step start-up and maintenance of an HOURS system, and includes forms, laws, articles, procedures, insights, samples of Ithaca's HOURS, and past and future issues of *Ithaca Money*. We've sent the Kit to over 150 communities in 41 states so far, and our example is becoming national. To get one, send $25.00 (2.5 HOURS option in NY) to Ithaca Money, Box 6578, Ithaca, NY. 14851.

Paul Glover, who created the HOUR system, is a community economist and ecological urban designer (author of Los Angeles: A History of the Future*), with a degree in City Management. He has worked in advertising, journalism and barnyards, and rides his bicycle everywhere.* ♥

Colorado Boycott Suspended

"Today the Boycott Colorado movement applauds the court for taking one step towards justice for lesbians, gay men & bisexuals by calling Amendment 2 unconstitutional," proclaimed Terry Schleder of Boycott Colorado, Inc. (BCI), in a December 14, 1993 press statement. "In cleaning up a huge mess created by Colorado for Family Values, Judge Bayless confirmed what the nation has been telling our state for over one year: Amendment 2 was an aggressive attempt to legalize discrimination and violate the fundamental rights of lesbians, gay men & bisexuals by fencing us out of the democratic process."

With that statement the Colorado boycott was suspended, pending the outcome of an appeal of the court decision by Colorado's Attorney General. BCI may reinstate its boycott should that appeal be entertained by a higher court. Remember, "suspension" means they're going to "wait and see," and that the boycott has not yet been permanently called off.

BCI is calling Amendment 2 the most expensive civil rights violation in U.S. history - costing the state almost $120 million in assorted business through the year 2000. BCI provided *The Boycott Monthly* with an extensive accounting of Colorado's lost business, and the group questions just how long it will take the state to recover from the "enormous and possibly irreparable harm to Colorado's economy and spirit" caused by Amendment-2.

"It is not 'militant homosexual aggression,' but militant religious aggression that has given Colorado a black-eye until the turn of the century," said BCI's Schleder. "Colorado for Family Values lied when they claimed to be a grass-roots local organization. They have clear and enormous ties to many states attempting similar legislation. Despite this judge's ruling, we still fear for the lives and economic loss those states will face if successfully manipulated by anti-gay sentiment. Cincinnati is one city that received a $390,000 donation to promote hatred, and is currently paying the price with a national boycott."

"The ball is now in the people's court," Schleder continues. "We believe 1994 will be a better year for our state if and only if every home, every business and every lawmaker fights against Colorado for Family Values' hostility toward gays, and makes it possible for our stories to be heard. Every gay, lesbian or bisexual person in Colorado and the nation has a responsibility to surmount fear to tell the truth about our lives, even if it is painful.

"Boycott Colorado believes religious aggression is far from a 'family value' — it's bad business," BCI's Terry Schleder. "What is good for families and business is civil rights protections for all, inclusive of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Without genuine civil rights protections, Colorado remains vulnerable to another attack, and we all will have suffered a pointless year where money was lost and people died for the right to remain second-class citizens.

"Today is not 'the end of the matter,' and Boycott Colorado pledges its support to equality and to a better Colorado." The Center for Economic Democracy will continue to closely monitor the situation in Colorado.

"What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise."

– Barbara Jordan

the WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES AFSCME • AFL-CIO

Make Your Impact On The World!

Join the Washington Federation of State Employees Today!

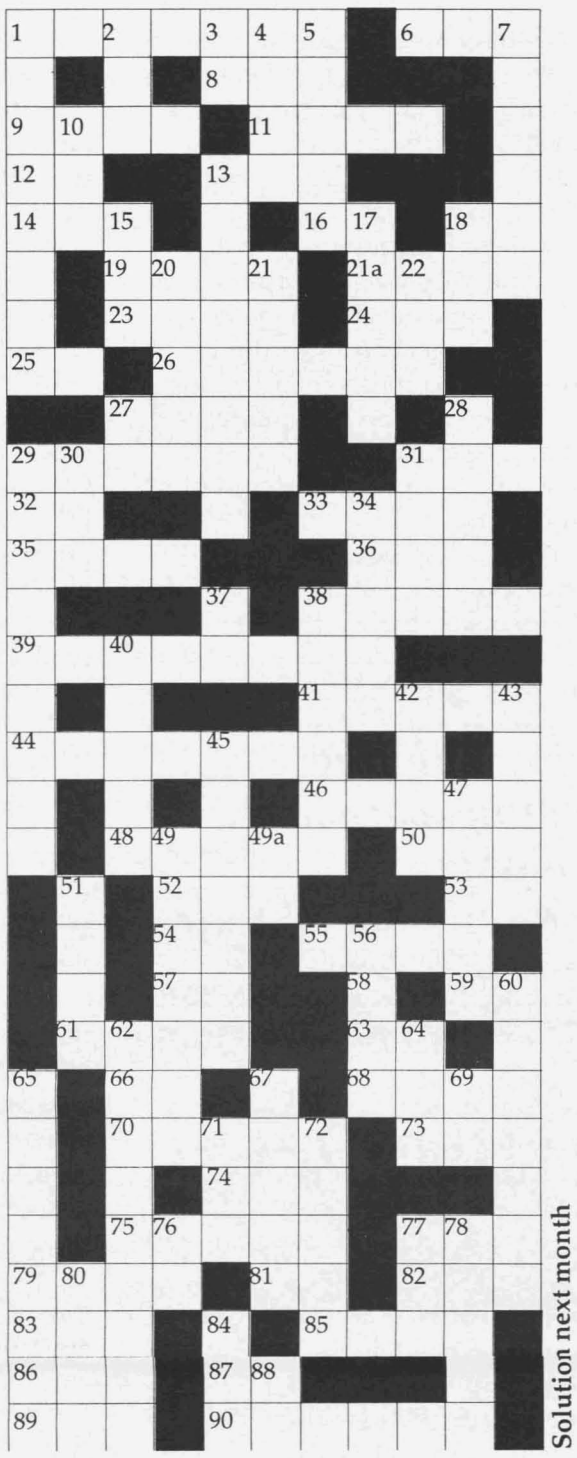
AFSCME • AFL–CIO

PO Box 105 Olympia, Wa 98507 Phone 943-1624

Funky WIP Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. "_____Awethu!"
6. Newsweek reporter
8. Boating accessory
9. Professor Jones
11. Not a desire
12. Yes, in Ecuador
13. Linear Distance Navigation
14. Just a bit
16. Associated Press
18. Theresa, affectionately
19. Activist Schlect
21a. Rock group (2 words)
23. Belonging to Pamela
24. Street, in France
25. Emergency Room
26. Mexican revolutionary
27. Joke
29. He's CINCPAC
31. Enemy
32. Not out
33. Norse god
35. Chevy model
36. "Flight of the ____ Dog"
38. Fool
39. War criminal of the '40s
41. Southwestern land features
44. The Hoosier State
46. Actor
48. Gather
50. Cheer
52. One, in Colombia
53. Electronic pulse
54. Trudeau character
55. "Behind the Green ____"
57. Arts & Entertainment Network
59. "____ The World Turns"
61. Planet
63. Mr. Bundy
66. Los Angeles
68. Activist Chomsky
70. "Allah _____!"
73. Bomb Damage Assessment
74. Man's name
75. To acquire
77. Weapons
79. Foam
81. Clear, to a cash register
82. Olympia Pottery & Art
83. Equal Rights Amendment
85. Cry of pain
86. Rural Driver License
87. _____ Alamein, Libya
89. To seek compensation
90. Famous Hun



Solution next month

Down

1. Haitian President
2. Help
3. "Love Me, ____"
4. Saillard's concern
5. The Coliseum, for one
7. Paradise
10. Actress Peeples
13. Oregon terrorist (2 words)
15. Salute
17. Auto accessories
18. "_____ Fugitive"
20. Hitler's followers
21. Tree
22. Man's name
27. Junior
28. Apartment
29. Former Safeplace Coordinator
30. Year, in Spain
31. Kili's brother
34. GM car
37. "_____ Stryker"
38. Belonging to the would-be SECDEF
40. Populous nation
42. Alone
43. "Supermarket _____"
45. He's Elliott Ness
47. Vulcan name
49. Egyptian dictator
49a. "_____ what?"
51. Fateful end
56. Arab nation
60. African nation
62. Merry Man (2 words)
64. Tennis stroke
65. Eddie & the _____
67. Computer language
69. Anno Domini
71. Bureau of Indian Affairs
72. Event
76. Versus
77. Star
78. Rome's Via _____
80. Language
84. Ocean
88. Lieutenant

Two items of interest to Women and their allies:

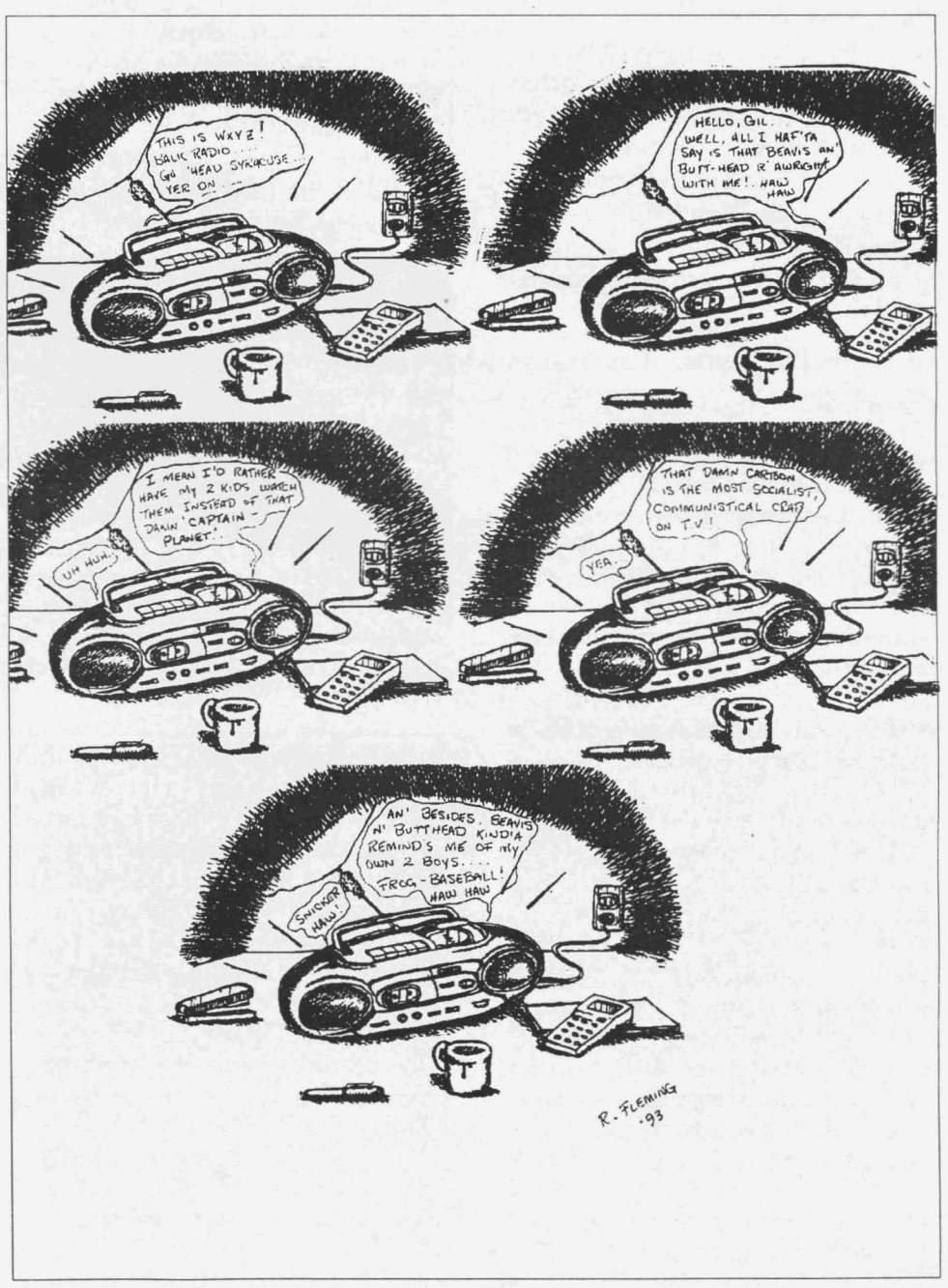
6-7 Feb 94: Lobby Training and Women's Lobby Day

On Sunday, 6 Feb the Washingon State branch of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) will hold a lobby training session to prepare for Women's Lobby Day on 7 Feb at the state capital. This training will include basic lobbying techniques, legislation affecting women, and role playing to prepare for Lobby Day. The training will be held in the morning on Sunday in Seattle, and lobbying will be the next day in the afternoon in Olympia, followed by a reception. Please participate! For more information call NARAL at (206) 624-1990.

Choice Action Teams

across the state are gearing up for the 1994 legislative session! If you are tired of watching women's basic reproductive rights attacked and want to do something about it in <u>your</u> area, please call Kelly at (206) 624-1990. No experience is necessary, just a strong commitment to a woman's right to choose!

MANIFEST BIGOTRY MEETS MANIFEST DESTINY


THIS IS WXYZ! TALK RADIO ... GO 'HEAD SYRACUSE ... YER ON ...
HELLO, GIL. WELL, ALL I HAF'TA SAY IS THAT BEAVIS AN' BUTT-HEAD R' AWRIGHT WITH ME! HAW HAW
UH HUH...
I MEAN I'D RATHER HAVE MY 2 KIDS WATCH THEM INSTEAD OF THAT DAMN 'CAPTAIN PLANET'.
YEA.
THAT DAMN CARTOON IS THE MOST SOCIALIST, COMMUNISTICAL CRAP ON T.V.!
SNICKER HAW!
AN' BESIDES, BEAVIS N' BUTTHEAD KINDA REMIND'S ME OF MY OWN 2 BOYS.... FROG-BASEBALL! HAW HAW
R. FLEMING '93

(Continued from cover)

"special right."

These anti-gay initiatives represent a particularly insidious form of bigotry. Washington Citizens for Fairness asks all citizens of this State, regardless of whom you love, or what your religion, or race, or political affiliation, or any of the endless pieces that make us so diverse a people—we ask you to oppose these anti-gay initiatives that would encode into law discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Aaron K. Owada, Japanese American Citizens' League

Fifty two years ago today over 110,000 Japanese Americans were rounded up, imprisoned behind barbed wire fences, and deprived of their homes, their property, and their liberty simply because of the color of their skin and their ancestry from Japan. For five years of their lives, both of my parents were interned behind those barbed wire fences even though they were American citizens and even though the government knew that there were no reasons of national security that mandated their incarceration . . . Yet, today as we meet, through public sentiment and the election process the Citizens Alliance of Washington and other groups seek to deprive innocent citizens of their basic fundamental civil rights. The word of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson are appropriate today. He wrote:

...The very purpose of a Bill of Rights was to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy ... One's right to life, liberty, and property . . . and other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote; they depend on the outcome of no elections. (West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette, 1943)

...We must not allow the current of public hatred to steer our state or even appear on our ballots. If there must be a vote on civil rights, we must allow the light of decency to outshine the darkness and ugliness of bias and discrimination against any group of individuals.

Jerome Johnson, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition is a human rights organization committed to the defeat of the Minority Status and Child Protection Act and the Equal Rights, Not Special Rights Act.

Despite their titles, these initiatives will not defend minorities and children, nor will they ensure equal rights for all the citizens of Washington. Rather, they pose a grave threat to the peace, prosperity and well-being of all Washingtonians. Not only would these initiatives legalize discrimination, they would take away the power of state and local governments to protect the people from prejudice, violence and the deprivation of human rights. Not only family values, but indeed the family itself is threatened by these initiatives. In addition, they would open the door to widespread—and legal—discrimination in housing, education, employment, the foster parent/adoption process and the public safety. ♥

Calendar

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace
February 8th, 7pm
Olympia Timberland Library
8th and Franklin • East Room

Hands Off Washington
February 22nd, 7pm
United Church
11th and Capital
Info: 786-6608

Sunday, February 20th, 3-5pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
19th and Capitol
Dr. Tom Rainey on Nationalism and Nationalistic Intolerance

Dr Tom Rainey is a Professor at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. His area of expertise is the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. While there has been an increase in neofacism in the U.S. and Europe with rising anti-immigrant attitudes, Dr. Rainey will discuss the rise of nationalism and intolerance in Eastern Europe. He will point out the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Poland and Soviet Union.

On February 5, the Washington Biotechnology Action Council will be hosting a one day workshop to explore the social, ethical, environmental, and economic implications of the newly emerging genetic technologies, and to invite the public into a discussion of how industrial biotechnology will effect our lives.

The workshop is free of charge and a lunch will be provided. If you would like more info or wish to make reservations call Todd at 543-6640.

In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

"I Have a Dream"

I often though life was unfair
because I was born in poverty,
I never had much of anything,
all I had was given freely.
"But I had a dream."

Oftentimes I didn't have food to eat
and times were much worse that it seemed,
but as far back as I can remember
I had always had a dream

I only had one set clothing for school,
yet I always managed to keep clean.
I struggled hard to gain an education
because I was obsessed with my dream.
"I had a dream."

I now see the homeless in a home
and the hungered are being fed
and those that were sleeping in our streets
have finally been given a bed.
"I have a dream."

No more work forces are being cut
'Cause the economy is picking up.
We should all thank our president
that the unemployment rate is zero percent.

Homelessness was something of the past
they each had found employment, at last.
Since prosperity opened up its door
the violent street gangs are no more.
"I had a dream."

No one's afraid to walk the streets at night.
No fear from red, yellow, brown, black or white.
And law enforcers put away their guns
for all American Citizens became as one.

The sick are getting the care they need,
Clothing are being put on people's backs
Our needy are now living inside shelters
and not along our railroad tracks.
Yes, "I have a dream."

I have a dream that there's no more hatred.
Eyes that were sad are now gleaming,
but it's not over yet, I can't stop now
for I am still dreaming. "I have a dream."

And each night when I lay me down to sleep
I don't see any homeless people on our streets,
Though you said goodbye a few years ago,
Dr, King,
Wherever you are, we know you still have a dream.
Yes Dr., you had a dream. "I have a dream today!"

Johnnie "The Silver Fox" Thomas

Night to Day

As the sun sets in the west
the night brings the sea to rest
the moon comes out big and round
and shines out bright upon the sound
the stars come out flickering white
unto the sea they shed pure light.
one by one they die away
and once again, here comes the day
the birds are singing their song of morn
quiet and calm a new day is born.

Rebecca Zink

WIP Schedule

WIP Article submission deadline is Wednesday
Feb. 16th
Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH at 7 pm. SPEECH is 218 Fourth Ave. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7pm
Call 705-2726 for location.

For advertising information call ad representative
Dave Campbell at 352-6132
Rates run approx. $7.50/inch
Discounts available

WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507